



Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles, the High Representative of the European Union for Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Mr. Geir O.Pedersen, the United Nations Special Envoy for Syria,

Gentlemen of the Joint Committee of the European Union and the United Nations organizers of the Brussels VI Conference,

Representatives of donor States and organizations,

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen...

We - the Syrian civil society organizations and institutions operating in Northeastern Syria (NES) and in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), the signatories on this letter, at a time while we have been marginalized and excluded from all political and civic tracks and activities, including this distinguished conference of yours and the Syrian Constitutional Committee, we consistently reaffirm our firm belief in the necessity of a political solution and democratic transformation in Syria in accordance with the course of Geneva Conference and the International Resolution (2254) as the only way to resolve the Syrian issue. At the same time, rejecting violence in all its forms, and from all military parties alike. Especially since the Russian war on Ukraine has shown all countries friendly to the Syrian people that the international community is unable to find any solution to the Syrian issue, and that this deficit has made humanitarian conditions more difficult and allowed military forces benefiting from the undermining of peace and increased stifling of civilians.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is the responsibility of the European Union to assume its responsibilities on the basis of the international covenants and charters it adheres to and through its lofty values, which it proclaims and advocates away from political attractions and based on its noble human values **in order to:**

First: The Issue of Forced Displacement and Demographic Change

The systematic forced displacement, the expulsion of indigenous people from their areas that form processes of demographic change and the construction of residential complexes for settlers in a number of areas, especially in Afrin, Ras Al-Ain and Tell Abyad, have negative impacts on societal peace between the components of Northeastern Syria, hindering the process of sustainable peace in Syria. While the international community and the Syrian people are seeking possible solutions to return the indigenous people to their areas, Turkey is working, according to what it officially announces, to forcibly return one million Syrians through deportation and resettlement in the occupied areas such as Afrin, Ras Al-Ain and Tell Abyad, following building housing complexes for them. Thus, seeking to create a social conflict between the Syrian components themselves.

We therefore call upon the international community to intervene immediately in order to stop the forced displacement, work to return the indigenous people to their regions and compensate those affected, as well as eliminate the effects resulting from these displacements. Moreover, we stress the need to find sustainable solutions for more than half a million displaced Syrians living in Northeastern Syria, mostly from Afrin, Ras Al-Ain and Tell Abyad, lacking the lowest viability of life and protection. In addition to the occupation of their cities, the seizure of their property and homes, and the continuation of the most terrible violations against those who thought of staying by the armed factions loyal to Turkey.

Second: Civil Space Protection

Although each year Brussels Conference stresses the need to continue working with and providing financial support and capacity-building to Syrian civil society, engaging it in decision-making and contributing to Syria's peace and negotiations, yet the organizations operating in Northeastern Syria have not received the required support and the CSOs in NES remain marginalized and unrepresented in many civilian and political tracks and platforms discussing the future of peace in Syria. Furthermore, the United Nations agencies operating in Northeastern Syria continue to refrain from working with local organizations that are not registered with the government of the Syrian regime in Damascus, in light of the continuing security risks to civilian activists to deal with the departments of the regime's government. Not to mention the poor funding and support provided by international organizations operating directly in the region, and the failure to adopt a partnership system with local organizations operating in Northeastern; Most of which are grassroots, began work after the elimination of ISIS and the liberation of Raqqqa, Deir Ezzor and the countryside of Al-Hasakah governorate.

Therefore, it is necessary to promote clear mechanisms for the economic, security and legal protection of civilian action for the continuation of organizations' work, to develop them institutionally and to increase coordination between them and international actors in order to enhance their responsiveness to society's needs, and to promote community participation in local and national decision-making.

Third: Food Security

Al-Jazeera region in Northeastern Syria, under the authority of the Autonomous-Administration, which was and continues to be regarded as Syria's *food basket* and its primary source of wheat production, is experiencing a decline in agricultural and animal production as a result of drought and desertification, and the difficulty of securing seeds. Unofficial sources from local authorities indicate that wheat stocks in Northeastern Syria have

diminished to the point of being unavailable for more than three months, prompting the use of corn beans in the flour industry to produce bread. The decline in agricultural production has led to a sharp rise in imported food prices, which has exacerbated the living situation of most citizens in eastern Euphrates.

In Northeastern Syria, there are large agricultural areas, water resources controlled by Turkey and cut off continuously. There is also a high level of expertise that needs support in order to invest agricultural land widely and scientifically. Therefore, pursuing development policy through small, medium and large agricultural enterprises and industries associated with agricultural development will provide material and human resources in the region and create opportunities for self-sufficiency. It will thus contribute to the protection of food security, thereby alleviating the pressure on the international community in crisis to provide humanitarian assistance to the Syrian people, in light of its preoccupation with other conflict zones, most notably the Russian war on Ukraine.

Fourth: Economic Deterioration and Its Impact on Local Communities

Northeastern Syria has suffered from neglect and deprivation for decades, and the economy of these areas was almost entirely dependent on agriculture and livestock, in the absence of companies, factories and factories. After the crisis in Syria entered its tenth year, the economic structure in these areas deteriorated for many reasons linked to the ongoing military operations by the armed factions. Most of them are radical, which belongs to the Turkish occupation to date, and the effects of the sanctions on Syria, which have led to a rise in the foreign exchange rate, low salaries, high prices of commodities for daily life, lack of governance in local authorities' institutions, absence of transparency and widespread corruption and monopoly. In addition to the predominance of war dealers in the economy, and the deterioration of agriculture and livestock sectors.

All this has resulted in high incidence of poverty and unemployment, especially among youth groups. In addition to the spread of diseases among the local population, widespread violence and aggression, and an increase in crime, Such as burglary, theft, looting, cross-border smuggling and draining the people's abilities and savings. This has pushed the parents to encourage their youth children to enter the labour market instead of education and study, or to direct their adult children to migrate or join armed actions.

Therefore, the international community and the European Union must improve the living conditions of the families, especially displaced persons, women and people of determination, and pursue effective integrated economic policies aimed at channeling productive capacities towards the provision of goods and materials essential to citizens' lives, providing the necessary support to the agricultural sector and supporting small, medium and large economic and development enterprises.

Fifth: The Issue of Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Immigrants:

One of the most significant problems caused by the crisis in Syria is the issue of displaced Syrians, refugees and immigrants, both inside and outside Syria, and the areas of Northeastern Syria are no exception to this if not the most affected areas. The battles between the various parties have forced hundreds of thousands of civilians to move towards safer areas and reside in camps that lack the lowest necessities of a decent life. A preliminary statistic from the local authorities indicate that more than a million displaced people live in Northeastern Syria while lacking the most basic needs of life as the economic, security and food situation deteriorates. Therefore, attention must be addressed to the displaced, refugees and immigrants in NES, by supporting humanitarian and relief projects, developing their capacities and empowering them economically through small and medium enterprises. Likewise, by providing health services.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen ...

This letter represents the hopes of most Syrian citizens in Northeastern Syria and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, who have lived through and experienced long years of war and are still cautiously awaiting military and political developments in the country and are subjected to violent military attacks that displace them from their homes. This letter is nothing but an attempt to express the people's essential needs and priorities, and to overcome the remnants of the war that affected their social lives and service conditions. The residents of this region have not yet given up hope of victory over the war and are determined to overcome it. To achieve all this, they today need genuine international support paving the way for a stable and secure life under a new political system.

The Signatory Organizations:

Analysis and Strategic Study Organization (ASO).	engineering services organization	Okkaz Organization for Development and Peacebuilding
Adwaa Organization for Development and Construction	Enmaa Alfurat Organization	Oxygen shabab Organization
Afrin Women's Center	Environment and Water Association	Ozone Organization
Aheen orgasition for culture and training	Ezdina Organization	Path creation organization
Al Aseel Association for Development	Fikra organization	Peace Leaders Network
Al Zajel for civil society	four seasons organization	Peyam Association for Orphans Care
Al-Ahd Organization	Future Hands Organization	Qadar Organization
Albaghooz Hope for Development	Future Makers Team	Qudwa Organisation For Construction and Development
Al-Diyar society	Future Visions of Development	Radence of hope
Al-Furat Hand organization for Development	Green Branch Organization	Radio saut al haia
Al-Furat Organization for Relief and Development	Gummard Association	Rawafd Organization
Al-Hasakah Organization for Relief and Deve	Hajen Technicians Organization	ray of humanity
Al-Khaboor Association	Hapyy land organization	Refugee Community Council
Al-raja organization for relief and development	Hevdesti-Synergy Association for the Victims	Reng for development
Alriyf Organization	Hevy for relief and development	Rojava activist network
Alwan Organization for Development and Relief	Hlom development organization	Rok for Relief and Development
Amuda Association for Environmental Protection	Human Rights Commission in Syria (M A F)	Rose for Support and Empowerment
Anoar algad Organization	Inaash Organization for Development	Sanabel Al-furat Development
Areej developmet Center	Insaf Organization for Development	Sara organization to combat violence against women
Ashna for Development	Iwaa organization	Sawaed Organization for Development
Ashtar Development Organization	Jasmine Association	Shamal charity association
Ashti centre	Jian Charitable Society	Shams organization
Association restore hope	Joan Organization for Warrens	Share for Community Development
Ataa Al-Baghhouz Organization	Kobani for Relief and Development	Shawchka Women's Association

Ataa Al-furat organization	KOMELYA AMAL	Shellan Organization for Relief and Development
Ataa for development organaization	Kurdish Journalists Network in Syria	Swaedna Organization for Relief and Development
Atyaf Organization	Kurdish women;s Union RougeAva	Syria for Development and Peacebuilding
Awda For Development	Kurds without borders	Syria Help Organization
Balsam Center for Health Education	Lamsat Al Khair Organization	Syrian center for studies and diyalogue
Better life organization	Lisav organisation for humanitarian aid	Syrian Kurdish Civil Forces Gathering
Better Tomorrow Organization	Maakum for development and peace	Ta Marbouda Organization
Bridges of Peace for Development	Mahabad Organization for Human Rights	Tayif Humanitarian Organization
Bukra Ahla Association for Relief and Development	manara Organization	Tel Abyad platform for civil society
Civil Cooperation Organization	Media Academy	the sighted hands Organization
Community Solidarity Organaization	Mitan Center for the Revival of Civil Society	Together for a better future
Dan for Relief and Development	moltaka alnhren organization	Tomorrow organization
Darbasiyah Charitable Society	Nabd Team	Total foundation for Relief and Development
Derna Association for Development	Narcissus Organization	Vdc Nsy
Developmental Seeds Center	NASS Association for Development	Weqaya Association
Dijla Organization for Development and Environment	nawat organization	Youth For change
Dmair mutsela organization	nudem organization	Youth Optimistic
Emaar mansura Organization	Nujin Society for Community Development	