

Discours du Ministre des Affaires étrangères et européennes du Luxembourg, Jean Asselborn

Conférence des donateurs pour la Syrie

Koweït, le 31 mars 2015

Mr. Secretary-General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to thank His Highness the Emir and the government of the State of Kuwait for the organization of this Third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria Conference.

More than four years since the start of the Syrian uprising, we have to admit that the international community has failed to put an end to the bloodletting in the country.

The death toll has reached the unconceivable number of more than 220 000. This means that at least 145 people have died each day, and every hour that passes in Syria, 6 more persons have to die.

We all know how utterly catastrophic the humanitarian situation in Syria has become: 12,2 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, 7,6 million are internally displaced, including 4,8 million in difficult to reach areas; more than 3,9 million are refugees, hundreds of thousands are trapped in besieged cities, towns and villages across Syria... The list goes on and on.

This situation can't continue. The conflict in Syria has to be brought to an end. The outside powers which have influence on the fighting parties should stop supporting and funding the war and instead push for a political settlement between moderates which is the only way to solve this conflict. As long as the war goes on, Daech and other extremist groups will not disappear.

We must uphold the pressure on the parties to the conflict to respect human rights and international humanitarian law, to provide immediate, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to all those in need, to guarantee medical access.

During our mandate in the Security Council in 2013 and 2014, we have been particularly active to achieve a consensus on three humanitarian Resolutions. These resolutions are binding on all parties and aimed at facilitating rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access for UN agencies, including across conflict lines and across borders, in order to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches civilians through the most direct routes.

However, we have to admit that the implementation of these resolutions remains very unsatisfying. Each and every day, and notwithstanding the clear wording of these UN resolutions, there are still indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian objects, such as hospitals and schools.

Faced with this unacceptable situation on the ground, the international community must assume its responsibilities and require with firmness the correct implementation of the Security Council resolutions on humanitarian access. The non-implementation of these resolutions must lead to sanctions against the violators. They must also be held accountable.

We must furthermore mobilize the financial resources to enable the UN and its partners to meet humanitarian and development needs of the Syrian people as well as to address the increasing impact of the refugee crisis on neighboring countries, especially Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt.

It is absolutely critical that the financial commitments we are making at this conference are honored. From the beginning of the Syrian conflict, Luxembourg's over all commitments will reach a total amount of 19,1 million euro through UN agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, various NGOs and the Syria Response Fund. All the funds pledged by Luxembourg at the conferences here in Kuwait in 2013 and 2014 have been disbursed.

The magnitude of the Syrian regional crisis pushes international systems to their limits. It is therefore that we need to mobilize all available resources coming from the humanitarian and development side as well as from international financial institutions. At the same time, it is essential that humanitarian principles remain the cornerstone for the provision of aid in this highly politicised context.

Exceeding our pledge of the 2014 Kuwait conference, Luxembourg is committing to contribute 5,5 million euros of which 2,5 million euros are to be spent on emergency relief and 2,5 million euros on programmes related to resilience building. In response to the Berlin compact, additional 500.000 euros will come from the Luxembourg Fund for Development Cooperation and will be allocated to longer-term programmes.

Let me conclude by saying that I sincerely hope that at the next Conference on Syria, we will be able to focus on reconstruction measures after having reached a political solution.

I thank you for your attention.