

**UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND
EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR, STEPHEN O'BRIEN**

STATEMENT ON SYRIA

(New York, 12 February 2016) I welcome the news that the members of the International Syria Support Group have agreed to a cessation of hostilities in Syria.

I urge the parties to the conflict to ensure full, sustained and unimpeded humanitarian access, including to besieged and hard-to-reach areas, in accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law.

The people of Syria - in Aleppo, Madaya, Foah and Kefraya, Deir ez-Zor and elsewhere - need an end to the brutal violence and bombing, the sieges, denial of free movement, food and medical care.

The United Nations and partners need safe, sustained access for humanitarian workers throughout the country. We remain committed and ready to deliver aid and protection for civilians in desperate need, whoever and wherever they are.

Above all we need to see meaningful action on the ground, so that Syrians and their neighbours can start to rebuild their lives and their country.

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