



Civil Society Participation in the Political Process

Taking into consideration its greatly effective support to the process of political transformation, the Syrian Civil Society Platform considers that civil society organizations should have larger participation and more roles in the political process as whole. Such cannot be achieved unless there is involvement on different level and different roles so consultations with Syrians about every single issue of the political process would be even more inclusive. This will also make the mobilization for the political process stronger among Syrians. In order to achieve that, the office of the UN special envoy as well as the *International Syria Support Group* (ISSG) have to find more effective means of communication other than merely meeting the CSOs' representatives in Geneva. For instance, there could be electronic communication with representatives of COSs inside Syria as well refugees' communities in Syria's neighboring countries in a quasi-periodic manner. Diversity, geographical distribution and communication with the organizations that work in different geographical areas. In addition, the office of UN special envoy and the *International Syria Support Group* (ISSG) have to acknowledge the following roles of CSOs:

- 1- Consultative role: there should be different consultative committees from civil society to the principle actors in the political process.
- 2- Monitoring role: there should be a common committee of Syrian and International organizations to set indicators and measure progress in the political process with collaboration with the, the office of UN special envoy for Syria.
- 3- Syrian CSOs should conduct official consultations with a wide range of Syrian people.
- 4- Alliance building: Syrian civil society will build alliances on certain issues to advocate for.

In this context, The Syrian Civil Platform has conducted consultations about Civil Society Support Room and it supports it as a method for civil society participation that were established by the office of UN special envoy. Most of Local platforms' members, more than 250 organizations and members, were consulted through discussing political issue as well as through National Committee discussions in its second meeting in August 2, 2016. For bigger role for civil society:



- 1-the room should include more representation of inside- Syria and outside-Syria organization with better fair representation.
- 2- The UN special envoy should give a priority to securing the diversity of Civil Society Support Room participants.
- 3-The office of UN special envoy have to make more efforts regarding logistics for participants and especially for those inside Syria as there are restrictions on the freedom of movement on Syrians in Syria's neighboring countries.
- 4- Facilitators and participants in Civil Society Support Room have to share the content and process of discussions periodically and transparently with even wider list of organizations.
- 5- Roles, tasks and terms of reference for Civil Society Support Room as well the method of representatives' selection with CSOs transparently.
- 6- Civil Society Support Room has to publish periodic reports about outcomes during and after every meeting.
- 7- Civil Society Support Room is in charge of its own.
- 8- The office of UN special envoy should acknowledge the independent monitoring committee that is to be established by international and Syrian organizations and working with this committee to set indicators and measure progress in the political process