



Statement on the Syrian National Dialogue Conference

At this critical juncture, and in recognition of the national responsibility that the moment demands, we in the Political Bureau of the Change for Syria Network express our deep disappointment with the organizational process of the upcoming Syrian National Dialogue Conference, scheduled for February 25 2025.

The lack of transparency in the invitation criteria, the absence of clear outcomes from the preparatory sessions, and the limited information regarding the number and diversity of participants raise serious concerns about the preparedness of the conference's organizing committee. These shortcomings cast doubt on its ability to conduct the conference in a manner that reflects the aspirations of Syrians who remain committed to the principles of the revolution, as well as the values of freedom, social justice, and democracy.

Moreover, the sudden announcement of the conference just two days before its scheduled date—without prior issuance of official invitations—has hindered the participation of key national and revolutionary figures, as well as experts whose contributions could have greatly enriched this pivotal event. The organizing committee bears full responsibility for ensuring the success of the conference and must take the necessary steps to ensure a more inclusive and professionally managed process.

To make the National Dialogue Conference a genuine platform for meaningful engagement, it is essential that each of the six proposed agenda topics be allocated at least one full day for in-depth and substantive discussion. Consequently, the duration of the conference should be no less than a week to produce meaningful and actionable outcomes.

In light of these concerns, we call on the organizing committee to reconsider the conference's timeline and postpone it until after the Eid al-Fitr holiday—specifically to early April—to allow for broader participation and more thorough preparations befitting the event's significance. We also urge the committee to disclose the criteria used in extending invitations to ensure fair and balanced representation of Syria's political, civil, and social forces.

Additionally, we note with concern the limited representation of youth and women in the preparatory sessions, despite their instrumental role in the Syrian revolution and the broader democratic transition. To ensure a truly inclusive dialogue, we call for increased youth participation in the conference, reflecting their essential role in shaping Syria's future. Likewise, Syrians in the diaspora are an inseparable part of the nation's social fabric, and their full representation in any national dialogue is both a right and a necessity to reflect the aspirations of Syrians inside and outside the country.

We urge all revolutionary and democratic forces—both civil and political—to adopt a unified stance regarding the National Dialogue Conference, affirming that these demands serve the best interests of Syria as both a nation and a people.

The phrase "One, one, one—the Syrian people are one" is not merely a slogan; it is a foundational principle that must guide collective efforts toward building a free and independent Syria.

A conference of this magnitude—the first to be held in free Syria—demands a higher level of professionalism, transparency, and sufficient time to ensure its objectives are met. The current agenda, as announced through social media, does not meet expectations; its brevity risks reducing the conference to an informal discussion rather than a decisive platform for shaping Syria's future.

We hope that the organizing committee will seriously consider these recommendations and take concrete steps to correct the current course, thereby reinforcing the credibility of the political process and ensuring genuine representation of the Syrian people in all their diversity.

Glory to the martyrs of our revolution, and long live a free and dignified Syria.

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