



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

24 February 2014

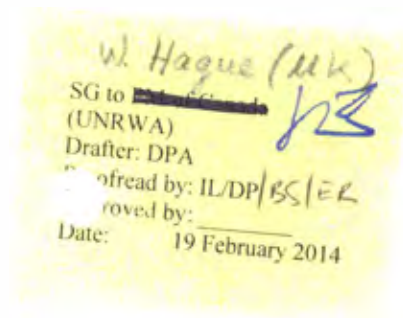
Excellency,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 7 February 2014. I appreciate your strong leadership on the issue of women's inclusion in peace processes and the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013). As you know, I am strongly committed to the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, including peace negotiations. I have consistently stressed the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and Syria is no exception.

The commitment of the United Nations to ensuring realization of these resolutions in the effort to bring peace to Syria is manifest. The Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012 explicitly underscores that women should participate in all aspects of the transition. My invitation letters to the International Conference on Syria stated explicitly that "consistent with the Geneva Communiqué as well as Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and other relevant resolutions, full and effective participation of women in the delegations is essential". I was pleased that women were present in both delegations at Montreux and in the two delegations that are present for talks in Geneva.

The members of the Syrian Women's Initiative for Peace and Democracy have been supported by the United Nations, through the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the Department of Political Affairs in accordance with the overall joint cooperation strategy between them, and in close liaison with the Joint Special Representative's office.

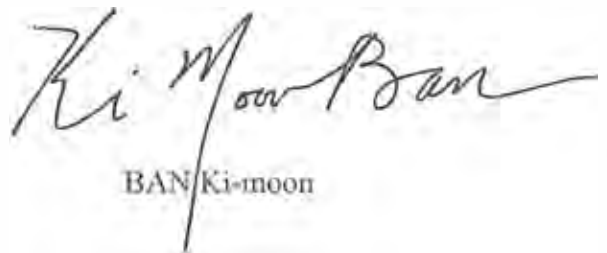
His Excellency  
Mr. William Hague, MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth  
Affairs of the United Kingdom  
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
London



The Joint Special Representative has met with the representatives of the Initiative on three occasions since the beginning of the year, and has urged the two delegations to meet them. He is looking forward to continued engagement with them, as he is with a number of other civil society actors in Syria.

The Joint Special Representative will continue to discuss with all parties how civil society in general, and women in particular, can make an effective contribution to the political process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



BAN/Ki-moon