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Note to the Secretary-General

**UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS REGARDING SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS
2139 AND 2165 ON SYRIA**

1. This note provides an update and outlines the next steps on Security Council (SC) resolutions 2139 and 2165 on humanitarian access in Syria. Operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 2165, which was adopted in July 2014 authorizes the United Nations to use four additional border crossings via Turkey, Jordan and Iraq. It also authorizes the establishment of the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism which is set to expire 10 January 2015. Security Council members have started informal discussions regarding its extension, including whether any amendments to the language in the resolutions are required.
2. In terms of next steps, there is a clear case for extension of resolution 2165. Cross-border operations are a crucial element of the 'whole of Syria' approach agreed by the IASC. It has allowed us to reach more people, especially to areas that are not reachable from Damascus. To date, the United Nations has delivered some 250,000 medical treatments, food for 230,000 people and relief items for 240,000 people through 32 cross-border shipments from Turkey and Jordan. The use of the border crossing with Iraq has remained on hold due to the ongoing fighting in the north-west of Iraq.
3. Together with NGO partners, we recently developed a joint operational plan that better coordinates the delivery of assistance by the United Nations and NGOs from within Syria and across the agreed border crossings. Through this plan, we aim to reach approximately one million people in the food, relief items and water and sanitation sectors through cross-border operations. This joint plan is the basis for our humanitarian planning for 2015.
4. Given shifting conflict lines and after a careful analysis, it is clear that opening additional border crossings would not result in significant gains in access to additional people in need who cannot already be reached.
5. With respect to protection of civilians, your monthly reports to the Security Council on the implementation of resolutions 2139 and 2165 have clearly showed that the protection situation continues to deteriorate for civilians in Syria. All parties to the conflict continue to disregard the resolutions' demands for respect of international humanitarian and human rights law. Flagrant human rights violations continue, including the use of sieges as a weapon of war, indiscriminate attacks in densely populated areas, and the targeting of civilian populated areas and civilian infrastructure. In addition, the parties to the conflict, particularly the Syrian authorities, have failed to promptly allow the rapid, safe and unhindered delivery of assistance as called for in the resolutions. As I engage with Security Council members on an extension of resolution 2165, I will also highlight these protection trends and, where necessary, make recommendations on how the Council could strengthen protection of civilians elements.
6. I am talking to Security Council members, and other Member States including from the GCC on the extension of resolution 2165. I will brief the Council on 25 November and again on 16 December.

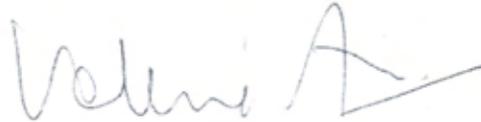
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7. Given the deterioration of the situation on the ground in Syria and the complexity, we need to keep all options open to enable us to reach as many people as possible both across conflict lines and across borders.

8. I will keep you updated on the situation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Valerie A.', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Valerie Amos
21 November 2014

cc: Mr. Eliasson
Dr. Chan
Ms. Cousin
Mr. Feltman
Mr. Guterres
Ms. Haq
Mr. Lake
Ms. Malcorra

Note to the Deputy Secretary-General

**UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS REGARDING SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS
2139 AND 2165 ON SYRIA**

Please find attached a note to the Secretary-General on the update and next steps regarding Security Council resolutions 2139 and 2165 on Syria.

I would be grateful if you could kindly submit it to the Secretary-General.

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Valerie Amos
21 November 2014

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5. With respect to protection of civilians, your monthly reports to the Security Council on the implementation of resolutions 2139 and 2165 have clearly showed that the protection situation continues to deteriorate for civilians in Syria. All parties to the conflict continue to disregard the resolutions' demands for respect of international humanitarian and human rights law. Flagrant human rights violations continue, including the use of sieges as a weapon of war, indiscriminate attacks in densely populated areas, and the targeting of civilian populated areas and civilian infrastructure. In addition, the parties to the conflict, particularly the Syrian authorities, have failed to promptly allow the rapid, safe and unhindered delivery of assistance as called for in the resolutions. As I engage with Security Council members on an extension of resolution 2165, I will also highlight these protection trends and, where necessary, make recommendations on how the Council could strengthen protection of civilians elements.

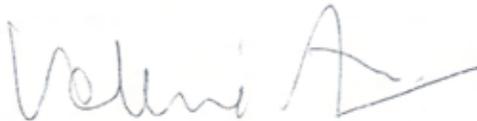
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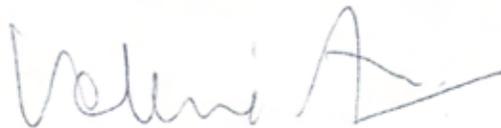
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