



SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The Prime Ministry

Planning & International Cooperation Commission

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The First National Report on Sustainable Development Goals SDGs (Executive Summary)



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



INTRODUCTION

World leaders and representatives of member states meeting at the United Nations Headquarters, **concurrently with** the Organization celebration of its seventieth anniversary, **endorsed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** under the title «**Transforming our world**». The Agenda is a plan of action with new sustainable development goals that seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom, and to eradicate poverty in all its forms to achieve sustainable development. All member states of the UN are resolved, individually and collectively, to implement this ambitious global plan that involves with its 17 goals and 169 targets to continue action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the year 2000

The Syrian Arab Republic, as an active member state in the UN, participated in the General Assembly summit for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by virtue of Syria's commitment to international consensus over the comprehensive framework of international development efforts to achieve SDGs, and given the significant role of these goals on the international level on the one hand, and on the national level to serve the best interests of Syrian citizens and institutions, on the other hand.

Since 2011, the Syrian Arab Republic has been living through exceptionally difficult circumstances due to the destructive consequences of the terrorist war launched against it by armed terrorist groups sponsored by some regional governments and entities, and supported by the illegitimate «international coalition's» military operations and the Turkish military aggression against Syrian territories. This war of terrorism has inflicted large scale destruction on the infrastructure and the environment, thus creating the need to utilize a large part of the available national resources and efforts just to confront the impact of this war.

There are also great challenges facing all national efforts to achieve sustainable development in Syria due to the illegitimate economic unilateral coercive measures imposed on Syria since 2011 to date, by some regional states and entities in flagrant violation of the UN charter, resolutions and conference documents and decisions related to global sustainable development. An even greater challenge that Syria is still facing is the catastrophic consequences of the continuing occupation of the Syrian Golan by the «Israeli» authorities that seek to deplete and waste the Golan natural resources, to pollute its natural environment, and to deprive the Syrian inhabitants of the Golan of their basic rights in addition to confiscating their lands and livelihoods. Not to mention the racist discriminatory policies enforced against the Syrians in the occupied Golan to serve the interests of the illegitimate «Israeli» settlers there.

The First National Report in Sustainable Development aims at:

1. Assessing the progress achieved by The Syrian Arab Republic in terms of accomplishment of MDGs between 2000 and 2010, and evaluating the impacts of the terrorist war launched against Syria in relation to the various MDGs between 2011 and 2015 (deviation from track).
2. Using the outcomes of this report to manifest the heavy impact of this war on the meticulous efforts exerted by the Syrian government to achieve its development goals in conformity with its commitment to UN goals.
3. Utilizing the results of the report with all the priorities and indicators listed therein to draft post-war developmental plans for the Syrian Arab Republic.

Goal 1: Ending Extreme Poverty and Hunger.

In 2010, the Syrian Arab Republic has come so close to achieving the millennium Goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger due to the various protective policies adopted to mitigate poverty (in its broader concept, the multi-dimensional poverty) through three components: the first component involves providing free/ or easily affordable social services, because providing educational, health and housing services, along with services related to supply of drinking water, sanitation and others have manifested great efforts to reduce poverty rates and mitigate the brunt of the economic situation the population is bearing. The second component focuses on providing various government subsidy policies for certain commodities and services, such as fuel, electric power, and basic commodities essential for the daily living of the Syrian people, in addition to the market price monitoring policies applied by the government that amount sometimes to administrative pricing controls. The third component entails appropriate employment policies, particularly in relation to social employment in the public sector, along with social and health security and job opportunities for women.

Target (1): Ending extreme poverty for all, it is measured by the number of people living under 1.25 USD a day.

This has always been a priority on the international level, it has been placed at the top of the list of MDGs that were launched in the declaration of the Millennium Summit of 2000 and ended in 2015 to be replaced by SDGs the first goal of which is ending poverty.

Reducing extreme poverty rates has been also a priority in the pre-war national plans in the Syrian Arab Republic. These plans were fruitful in achieving a significant decline in the «1.25-dollar» poverty line rates against the purchasing power for 2005, to reach a minimum rate of 0.2% in 2010. As a result, the Syrian Arab Republic has been listed in the millennium development reports among the countries that accomplished the MDG of «ending poverty» before 2015.

The percentage of the Syrian population living under 1.25 USD a day against the purchase power has largely risen due to the dire effects of the war launched against the country in 2011, reaching in 2013 its highest levels of 7% of the total population. This dramatic increase was due to a surge in unemployment rates resulting primarily from the cessation of many economic activities in various sectors countrywide, as well as the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed against the Syrian Arab Republic that caused a large decline in imports (particularly production inputs), and from the reduction in the purchase power of the Syrian Pound. By the end of 2013 there was a gradual drop (though minimal) in the percentage of the population living under 1.25 USD against purchase power of Syrian currency, reaching 6.4 % in 2015. This slight drop was due to the relative stability in exchange rates of the local currency, and due to the partial recovery of production activities of commodities and services that generated in turn a slight increase in employment rates and job opportunities.

It is important to note that the above mentioned poverty rate of 1.25 dollars per day used to measure the extreme

poverty line is used to compare the poverty rates between countries, but, on the national level, the extreme poverty rate (related to food security) is more important and indicative for measuring the food security situation of individuals and households. National data indicates that this local extreme poverty rate related to food security reached its lowest level before the war, with only 1.1% of the total population suffering «food poverty» in 2010. This accomplished progress in terms of reducing poverty rates was due to the capacity of the diverse resources of the Syrian economy to achieve self-sufficiency for most basic items of the average consumption basket by the Syrian household.

A household food security survey for 2015 has been conducted during the years of the war to enable the government and UN agencies to timely intervene to mitigate the impact of decline of household food insecurity on in the Syrian Arab Republic. The results of this survey reveal that food security in Syria has been dramatically affected by the war, as 33% of Syrian households became food insecure. The percentage of food insecurity varied according to governorates with the lowest reported in Lattakia governorate at 11%, and the highest in Al Hassaka governorate reaching 51%.. Sizable households with more than 7 members are more vulnerable to food insecurity at 47%, while those with less than 4 members are vulnerable at 21%. The war and its aftermath has made displaced households, even those returning to their original areas, more prone to food insecurity with a percentage beyond 40% in comparison to 30% for more settled households.

Target (2): Reducing to half at least the percentage of people living in multidimensional poverty as nationally defined.

The percentage of people suffering extreme poverty has reached 8.5% of the total population; this percentage constitutes half the poverty rates recorded in 1997, this clearly indicates that all the efforts before the war that sought to reduce poverty would have certainly succeeded before 2015 to achieve the millennium goal estimated at only 7.2% living in poverty of the total population.

After 2011, the war has resulted in very high poverty rates, as the percentage of the population living in extreme poverty reached 43% in 2013, and dropped minimally to 41.5% in 2015. This dramatic increase is attributed to the effects of the war on the two major poverty determinants: firstly, the low incomes affected by the rise in unemployment rates, and secondly, the rise in prices affected by a decline in commodities and services production along with the I of unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic.

Poverty rate according to the highest national poverty line has dropped from 33.6% in 2007 to 24.8% in 2010, nevertheless, it remained well below the ambition of achieving the MDG before the war. It has risen dramatically during the war to reach 68.9% of the total population in 2013, and has dropped to 63.6% in 2015 as a result of some positive development due to relative stability of prices, and the slight improvement in incomes generated mainly from limited employment of the labor force.

The citizens of the occupied Syrian Golan are living through extremely difficult conditions given the obviously intentional total absence of any policies or development programs designed for them by Israel's occupation power, in a systematic attempt to exercise economic pressures on the citizens or arrest hundreds of them, including children, to push them to migrate. Worse still, the Israeli occupation power imposes very heavy taxes on Syrian land owners

and on their agricultural crops, including apple crops that are the main local agricultural product for the population there; while it grants preference advantages to Israeli settlers, such as adequate water supply, market facilitation, modern agricultural methods to reduce production cost for them and enable them to market their crops leaving Syrian farmers unable in comparison to do so. Not to mention the continuous confiscation of lands owned by Syrians in the occupied Golan in a systematic policy adopted by the Israeli occupation power to starve and displace them in order to establish illegal settlements there.

Target (3): Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures and health care coverage for all.

The Syrian state through its various sectors provides free or subsidized basic services like health care, education, housing and shelter services infrastructure, water supply, sanitation and transportation. The social insurance programs that depend on subscription fees have had a smaller role in this respect, as social benefits and pensions are granted to public employees, with less benefit to those working in the organized private sector.

State subsidies for households include basic provisions and food supplies, such as bread, fuel, transportation, electric power, potable/ drinking water and sanitation. Net expenditure on subsidies in the electric power sector has remarkably risen during the years of the war, between 2011-2015, from 187 billion Syrian pounds in 2011, with 22.3% of the total public budget, to 299 billion Syrian pounds in 2015, i.e: a rise of 18.1% of the total public budget. The Syrian Arab Republic has sustained high percentages of subsidies for all elements of household governmental support, notwithstanding the impact of the war. Percentages of subsidized electric power supply, for example, remained high despite the low levels of service fees collection, and despite the challenges the electric power sector faced. Likewise, subsidies for basic supplies and provisions also remained high despite the increase in transportation and import cost, and for example, as far as drinking water is concerned, the increase in the cost of sterilization and difficulties of supplying such items.

Social security constitutes one component of social protection systems, related coverage data Indicates a slight increase in the number of social security subscribers from 1.95 million in 2010 to 2.1 million in 2015, with an annual increase of 21 thousand subscribers . However , this number of subscribers remains lower than the level aspired to, and thus reveals a large gap in the people registered in social security in comparison to the size of the labor force that amounts to 5 million people. This gap is due to the evasion of many private sector enterprises to register their employees for social security, particularly the irregular private sector. Data shows a rise in the number of social security beneficiaries from 443 thousand in 2010 to 591 thousand in 2015.

The Syrian state provides free or easily affordable educational and health services through the public education and health facilities; the state also provides basic services like drinking water and electric power supply. The war has largely impacted the economic resources required for the development process, and has led to a reduction of public

spending on these sectors. For example, a comparison of spending on these sectors between 2010 and 2015 indicates that the percentage of investment spending on education has dropped from 35 billion SYP in 2010, to 16.5 billion in 2015; the same applies to investment spending on the health sector which dropped by 9.7 billion to only 4 billion during the same years respectively. Similarly, investment spending on the drinking water sector dropped from 13.3 billion in 2010, to 7 billion in 2015; In other words, the percentage of the drop of investment expenditure on these services has exceeded 50% during the war.

Target (4): Ensure equal rights for all in accessing economic resources, basic services, property rights, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technologies.

The constitution of the Syrian Arab Republic of 2012, as all previous constitutions, has stipulated that all individuals, and men and women, are equal, and the principles it contains stress justice, equality, and equal opportunities without any discrimination. Article 33, paragraph 3 in the above mentioned constitution stipulates that “citizens shall be equal in rights and duties without discrimination among them whether by sex, origin, language, religion or creed.” In addition to this, the constitution has promoted the role of women in society as per article 23 that provides that: “the state shall provide women with all opportunities that will enable them to effectively and fully contribute to the political, economic, social and cultural life, and the state shall work on removing the restrictions that prevent women’s development and participation in building society.

Governmental policies and programs of action have incorporated these constitutional principles in all sectors, while promoting women empowerment and equal opportunities for women to access economic resources and development programs, particularly those concerning education, employment and health care. To achieve these goals, development programs have been conducted to target the vulnerable groups of female-headed households (like the national program to empower women and alleviate poverty, the rural women development program, among others). The Syrian Arab Republic has also adopted policies that guarantee equal opportunities for people with disabilities in development programs, particularly for education and employment. Consequently, the percentage of people with disabilities working in the public sector has increased from 3.1% in 2010, to 3.4% in 2015.

During the war, the Syrian state has also supported social care centers in all its forms and mandates, and wither public or non-governmental civil centers (such as centers that old people care centers, centers that provide care for people with disabilities, and orphanages) However, the services provided by these centers have been disrupted even in centers that remained operational, as some of them were turned to collective shelters, and due to the economic situation and the difficulty in providing all their requirements because of the unilateral coercive economic measures against Syria.

Target (5): Building the resilience of the poor to reduce their exposure and vulnerability to natural disasters, and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

The Syrian government adopts a policy focused on reintegrating the young people who commit delinquent actions by establishing 12 service centers for behavioral, academic and vocational rehabilitation with focus on the delinquent youth. However, due to the location of these rehabilitation centers in some areas where terrorists wreaked havoc and all kinds of destruction on the infrastructure, the number of these rehabilitation centers has dropped from 12 to 6 during the war, with the rest of them falling out of service. The government has also established rural development centers since 1958, aiming at developing rural areas and improving the living standards of rural population in addition to providing social, health care, and economic services. Moreover, and since 1980, the government has established units for rural industries in rural areas and poor neighborhoods in urban areas to provide training for the population there on rural and traditional industries in order to qualify them to practice such industries by equipping them with the necessary technical and theoretical knowledge to raise their educational level and find job opportunities for them. The number of these development centers has also dropped from 29 centers in 2010, to only 7 in 2015, as some of them are located in unstable areas; likewise, units of rural industries have dropped from 110 to 62 units during the same unstable period, thus reducing the number of beneficiaries from services provided by these centers and units by 50% between 2010 and 2015. The government has also established the drought fund that serves to mitigate the drought and natural disaster impact on farmers, and contributes in reducing the impact of climate change and natural elements negative factors on the income of households who depend on agricultural activities for their livelihoods.

Target (6): Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to implement programs and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

Since 2012, humanitarian Response plans have formed the basis for the cooperation framework between the government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the UN in supporting the national efforts to provide emergency humanitarian assistance in all humanitarian response sectors. These plans are not a framework for developmental work, they are rather a framework to mobilize resources and to conduct relief programs to mitigate the impact of the war, especially in cases of internal displacement that resulted in negative emergency consequences on the affected people, whether those displaced or hosting communities, or all citizens affected by the war in general. Notwithstanding the declared budgets allocated for these humanitarian response plans, the international funding has been modest in comparison with the humanitarian needs, and has not really matched the international commitments in this respect. In addition, the general macro-data (covering all expenditure items) does not show the actual spending on the needs, so it does not provide accurate figures on the resources allocated and directly spent to meet humanitarian needs in order to contribute in alleviating poverty for the people affected by the war. In general, humanitarian assistance only met the living needs, but did not involve a long term development programs in the actual sense, though the Syrian government starting in 2014 sought to ensure that focus would be directed at the dimensions related to strengthening early recovery and supporting livelihoods. But the implemented programs, and

the percentage of funding given to this vital development sector remained limited in comparison to programs and funding for relief programs. It is worth mentioning here that the Syrian Government has covered the majority of the consecutive humanitarian response plans

Target (7): Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies.

The Syrian government provides various education and health services for free by virtue of the state's commitment as per the Syrian Arab Republic's constitution of 2012 to guarantee these services to Syrian citizens without any form of discrimination based on gender or area of residence; but the impact of the war on the service sectors led to the decline of services: for example, the family planning services provided freely dropped from 764 thousand services in 2010, to 485 thousand in 2015, not to mention the decline in the number of maternity care services from 307 thousand in 2010, to 162 thousand in 2015.

As far as education is concerned, this is provided freely to the population: the number of students enrolled in primary and secondary education reached 5.6 million in 2010, but dropped to 4.4 million in 2015. In 2010, the percentage of students enrolled in public general education reached 95.6% of the total number of students following school education, while only 4.4% enrolled in the private sector education. However, the number of students enrolled in public education dropped by 21.5%, with 23% in private education between 2010 and 2015. This drop in enrollment of students has been due to the war that resulted in extensive damage to the education infrastructure as many schools were affected or sabotaged. The number of damaged schools whether partially or completely amounted to 2674 schools; not to mention the damages affecting the educational staff some of whom were either abducted or killed by terrorist armed groups. Moreover, school children were psychologically affected, and many parents were afraid to send their children to school to complete their education. Since 2013, the Ministry of Education implemented a whole package of programs to increase enrollment rates that produced good results with gradual increase of the number of students returning to school.

The terrorist armed groups imposed curricula that encourage and entice extremist Wahabi ideology on children in areas where these groups seized control. In addition to that, the Educational sector has suffered extensive damages and enormous losses in infrastructure and facilities due the constant targeting by the so called «international coalition», particularly in eastern areas of the country.

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Syrians enjoyed good levels of food security, reflected in the low levels of food poverty, which were at their lowest prior to the war. This was due to a number of economic sectors that provided self-sufficiency for most items of food consumption, and that, in some years, provided food surpluses that were exported abroad. This was in addition to the ease and low cost of transportation that ensured good material and financial access to food.

Target (8): By 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

The rate of food poverty dropped from 2.2%, in 1997 to 1.1%, in 2010. However, by applying a new form of measuring extreme poverty—one engendered by the war—via the use of indicators and levels of household food security, we discover the extensive impact of the war on the food status of the Syrian household. The report on household food security indicates that a third of Syrians 33.4 % have lost their food security, and more than half 51.6% are in danger of becoming food insecure. This means that only 15.6% of the population are food secure.

Syrian State institutions and Syrian civil society organizations, in addition to United Nations organizations, have provided food support to poor and war-affected households in the form of food parcels that are distributed periodically. These had the positive impact of reducing the burden on these households. However, the unstable areas have witnessed repeated attacks by terrorist armed groups against relief convoys as a means to blackmail civilians. Relief convoys were repeatedly attacked by the “International Coalition” air force, such as its targeting on 19 September 2016 the Syrian Red Crescent's humanitarian convoy heading for Urum al-Kubra, while five people were martyred, 22 others were injured and 6 vehicles were damaged.

Target (9): by 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age.

Children's underweight Index, an important indicator of health and nutrition status in any given country, had increased from 9.7% to 10.3% between 2005 and 2010. Such increase is unjustified given the availability of nutrients and improved availability indicators over the same period. This may be due to health factors associated with high incidences of diarrhea (according to the 2009 Family Health Survey).

The rate of underweight children grew significantly high during the war years by being negatively affected by food shortages, lack of health services and the reality of a number of health facilities becoming dysfunctional and/or going out of service. The rate rose to reach 13.2%, in 2015.

Target (10): Double the agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers.

Food production witnessed an average annual decline of 3.9% between 2005 and 2010. This decline can be attributed, on the one hand, to the years of drought that had begun in 2007 and worsened in 2008 and 2009, and the increase in the cost of production inputs on the other. This was especially so since this phase coincided with the gradual liberalization of the prices of production inputs, the most important component of which being fuels (hydrocarbons).

During the war years, the production of cereals declined by an annual average of about 8.6 percent between 2011 and 2015. This was due to the reality that a section of agricultural land had gone out of productive service because of the spread of terrorist armed groups in the main areas of wheat cultivation. These, in turn, made it difficult for farmers to access and cultivate their land. Thus, the area of wheat cultivated land had decreased from 1.5 million hectares in 2010 to 1.4 million hectares by 2013. The high cost of production inputs, especially the prices of fuel and fertilizers, has had a significant effect on the reluctance of some farmers to cultivate their lands. Alternately, farmers resorted to reducing their use of compost and the amount of irrigation water required which reflected negatively on agricultural yields and these declined significantly from 2760 kg / ha in 2006 to 1930 kg / ha in 2010, but rose again to 2320 kg / ha in 2013.

As for vegetables, production remained relatively stable between 2005 and 2010, despite the increase in cultivated areas of vegetables, especially winter ones. During the war, the production of vegetables fluctuated: production increased in 2011 after the Syrian Arab Republic emerged from the drought crisis, but then it fell again. Production declined by an annual average of 4.4% during the war. This was due to the inflation of prices in general, especially the costs of inputs and fuel. A good example of this trend is that of potato production, a basic nutrient by Syrian dietary habits. Potato production continued to rise until 2011 with an annual average of 3%. However, it declined, for the reasons mentioned above, between 2011 and 2015, at an average annual rate of 8.3%.

Cultivated agricultural areas in the country were largely affected due to the suspension of aid from world funds to the agricultural sector in the Syrian Arab Republic. In addition to this, the terrorist armed groups looted large amounts of Syrian crops and livestock and smuggled them to Turkey, they also burned farmers' crops and threatened and blackmailed farmers in unstable areas. These terrorist acts had a drastic impact on food security.

It should be noted that "Israel", the occupying power, has deployed some 76 minefields on Syrian-owned agricultural lands in the occupied Syrian Golan, thus depriving Syrian citizens from cultivating their land by means of agriculture, which is the main source of livelihood and income.

As for livestock production, milk products (cows, sheep, goats) decreased by an annual average of 6.2% while dairy products decreased by an annual average of 4.1%. Meat production declined by an average annual of 5.9% between 2011 and 2015, due to: the decline in the number of animals because of death, the sabotage of breeding sheds by armed groups in some areas, the low level of interest—on the part of farmers--combined by the rise in the cost of subsidized animal feed and the dearth of pasture lands. The impact was exacerbated due the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic which had their impact on animal feed production and its imports.

Target (11): Ensure sustainable food production systems, implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production and help maintain ecosystems.

The percentage of agricultural land cultivated with cereal crops decreased from 30.7%, in 2010 to 23.3%, in the year 2015 due to the war conditions, thus large swathes of agricultural production areas went out of productive service with many villages being in unstable areas and others having had their people displaced. This was compounded by unstable climate conditions. During this period, the percentage of land cultivated with vegetables decreased slightly. As for fruits, the percentage of cultivated land remained about 17% during the same period. This calls for the extensive use of modern irrigation methods to contribute to sustainable agricultural development, in addition to the need to optimize the use of up to date programs and projects for the prevention of natural disasters and warding off of emergencies: such as the anti-drought project and the early warning system stations designed to predict droughts and adverse weather conditions, such as frost, thus enabling farmers to anticipate and take the necessary precautions.

Target (12): Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, and farmed and domesticated animals including, soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at national, regional and international levels.

The number of plant species found in the Syrian Arab Republic is estimated at 3150 varieties, for 900 species. There are many local varieties that are still cultivated today because of their adaptation to environmental conditions, especially drought and heat, most of which have good agricultural and marketing characteristics. The genetic resources are obtained through collection tours conducted in the Syrian Arab Republic and via exchanges with agricultural research centers such as ICARDA, formerly. The number of inputs stored in the genetic bank has reached 13,351, from various crops, legumes-wild and cultivated-- oil crops, vegetables and pastoral plants. An annual assessment and multiplication of about 1500 - 2000 input of various species is carried out. The Ministry of Agriculture, represented by the General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research, has established 66 data banks for fruit trees-local and imported- and has set up 4 data banks for wild cereals and wild legumes, 3 for pastoral plants, one for medicinal and aromatic plants that includes 49 varieties and another also for medicinal and aromatic plant that includes 20 varieties.

During the war, the components of biodiversity and genetic resources were severely damaged. Many sites were destroyed by sabotage, looting, burning and vandalism by terrorist armed groups. Also, the plant cover underneath the forest was left open to the elements to the detriment of seasonal, perennial, herbaceous plants and other vegetation. Moreover, the Genetic Resources Laboratory (Genetic Bank) of the General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research (GCSAR) is located in an unstable region and thus it is not possible to assess the extent of the damage that it has sustained. Prior to the war, the Directorate of Livestock Research was in possession of about 20,000 heads of animal genetic resources, covering all types of domestic animals. The livestock stations totaled 20 stations concerned with the conservation and development of animal genetic resources. In the aftermath of war, the

whereabouts of the total number of 3,400 animal genetic resources remain unidentified while the total number of livestock stations (animal rearing and production) that have gone out of service reached 13, as a result of sabotage. Only 6 stations remain operational.

Target (13): Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services.

Several projects for the development of rural infrastructure for the enhancement of agricultural production have been carried out. They range from land reclamation, irrigation aqueducts and projects among others. However, and as a result of the war conditions, the number of these projects has decreased to three still-operational ones: the North-East Rural Development Project, and two Agricultural Development Projects in the mid-costal and southern Regions. The Idlib Rural Development Project, the Rural Community Development Project and the Jabal Al-Hoss Agricultural Development Project were hampered by the war circumstances. The Livestock Development Project was stalled due to the suspension of funding from IFAD. Recently, the above-mentioned development projects have been integrated into the Directorate of Rural Development Projects as part of the Ministry of Agriculture's steps towards administrative reform. Although funding from IFAD in the area of livestock development has been discontinued, some project activities have continued to be funded by the government.

Target (14): Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets including by the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies.

In the years before the war, Syrian trade witnessed a great development as a result of the trade liberalization policies adopted by the government at that stage. The legislation related to facilitating and simplifying the provisions of foreign trade in relation to import and export has contributed to a significant leap in the growth of imports and exports. This was especially the case after liberalizing the import of many goods that were previously banned or restricted and by imposing no restrictions on the export of the majority of goods. The Syrian government has also endeavored to support export activities to achieve a balance between exports and imports. It has also established several bodies to improve the quality of exports and promote them, in addition to signing free trade agreements with Arab and regional countries.

The war has caused a seriously adverse damage to the Syrian economy at all levels, including the agricultural sector. This has led to a decrease in the quantities of production, a decline in exports, an increase in the volume of imports and consequently an increase in the deficit of the trade balance.

The disruption of commercial operations and the imposing of unilateral coercive economic measures on the Arab Republic Syrian has directly contributed to the disruption of the financing of foreign trade. Thus, the flow of foreign trade was adversely affected by the unilateral and coercive economic measures as well as rising costs, lack of funding and so on.

The Syrian government has tried to overcome these difficulties by seeking to renew trade and economic alliances with international cooperation partners, especially with the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, People's Republic of China and other friend countries and that are committed to the provisions of international law. Agricultural exports were negatively impacted by the unilateral coercive measures, especially those enforced by the European Union that prohibited imports of Syrian products and imposed trade sanctions on those dealing with Syrian companies and businesses. Not to mention that the Syrian exports do not benefit from the preferential advantages of the World Trade Organization (WTO), in which Syria's membership has been hampered, for political reasons, by the United States of America.

In comparing the ratios of Syria's dependency on imports of cereals during the war, the highest ratios were in 2013 and 2014, about 34% and 35%, respectively, due to the decline in production and the need to import in order to meet the demands of domestic consumption. In contrast, the lowest rates were recorded in 2011 and 2012. The annual growth rate of wheat consumption and food grains had decreased during the period under study by 2.3% and 4.4%, respectively.

Target (15): Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives, and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.

Commodity and service markets were characterized by high stability in terms of stability of supply during the period prior to the war. However, between 2011 and 2015, as a result of difficulties in transporting products, decreasing domestic production and the conditions of the unilateral coercive economic measures, food prices rose significantly, while the food price index rose at higher rates than the prices of other products. Food index rose by an annual growth rate of 47.7%, while the general index increased at an annual growth rate of 43.2% between 2010 and 2015. This indicates a continuous exponential increase in prices in general and those of food and beverages in particular, clearly in 2015. This can be attributed to the rise in: the cost of the food and beverage industry, the cost of their imports, and the high prices of raw materials and inputs for food production due to the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed and the high exchange rate, especially when it comes to imported goods. In addition, a number of food and beverage factories and plants were sabotaged and destroyed by the armed groups.

The real increase in prices began to show in 2013 for most commodities, and when calculating the relative change between 2012--before the noted increase in prices--and 2015, we notice that it was quite drastic in the sector of animal food products which prices increased drastically in 2015 compared to 2012. The reasons is that animal food production sector has been adversely affected by the consequences of the war with a large number of poultry and animal farms going out of service due to being located in unstable areas, and because of the high cost of animal breeding supplies, especially imported ones. It was also noted that the fluctuation in the prices of vegetables and fruits remained within the-acceptable-ranging-to-high as a result of the rise in production costs, especially in the case of irrigated ones, and the difficulty in providing the necessary supplies. It is also noted that the prices of olive oil rose significantly to a record high of 267.5% depending on the circumstances of the war and the mechanism of supply and demand.

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

The Syrian Arab Republic witnessed a significant improvement in health in the first decade of the third millennium. The most prominent strengths of the Syrian health system manifested themselves in marked improvement in life expectancy at birth, a decline in child mortality due to better nutrition, an increased attention to reproductive health and maternal health, due to vaccines, and improved health care at birth. Other factors have also contributed to this improvement, particularly, the availability of clean water and the spread of education, the emergence of some indicators of environmental awareness and the need to combat infectious and communicable diseases.

Target (16): By 2030 reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100 000 live births.

The maternal mortality rate has dropped significantly in line with the path of progress required to achieve the related Millennium Development Goal by 2015. But the war with its internal and external impacts has hindered the achievement of the goal. The shortage of primary health care centers, coupled with insecurity in some unstable areas, has led to a reduction in the number of births attended by a specialist medical practitioner and has led to an increase in the number of maternal deaths during childbirth. In contrast to earlier health indicators that reflected significant progress, the maternal mortality rate has continued to rise since the beginning of the war, rising from 58 deaths, in 2011 to 67 deaths per 100,000 live births, in 2015, having been negatively affected by poor reproductive health services caused by the damage to infrastructure and health facilities, and the low proportion of pregnant women who received prenatal health care, dropping from 87%, in 2010, to 62%, in 2015, and to a decline in the proportion of births attended by trained medical practitioners as it was 96.2% in 2010, but according to 2010 household health survey, 14% of birth deliveries took place in homes.

The burdens and challenges resulting from the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic, and the criminal actions committed by terrorists armed groups that have wreaked havoc in many areas have left extensive damages in the medical and health care system, huge damage on health facilities and infrastructure (with 52 hospitals destroyed and 669 health centers becoming dysfunctional), in addition to brain drain, death or injury of expertise and medical and health-care staff (with 455 dead, 262 injured, 39 kidnapped), and heavy losses in pharmaceutical industry sector (20 pharmaceutical factories damaged out of 72). Despite all these challenges the national healthcare system has not stopped providing its free services to the public according to the capacities and resources available.

Syrian women in the occupied Syrian Golan face many difficulties in obtaining access to health services. The nearest hospital is located in Safad, which is 60 km away from the Golan. Many pregnant women have to give birth in their homes without resort to trained medical supervision. The Israeli occupation authorities have used the Syrians' refusal of the Israeli identification as a pretext for not providing them with health services.

Target (17): By 2030 reduce newborn mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1000 live births and children under-five mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1000 live births.

Prior to the war, the Syrian Arab Republic had achieved the Millennium Development Goal of reducing infant mortality rates of an early-death to a rate of 21.4 per thousand in 2010. However, the repercussions of war, its negative impact on health care services and the high rates of poverty and its impact on the vulnerability of household food security have led to an increase in the under-five mortality rate in 2015 to reach around 32 per thousand. The infant mortality rate rose from 17.9 per thousand to 27 per thousand between 2010 and 2015 due to the limited immediate response in the provision of appropriate health services. Instability in some areas where terrorist armed groups were spread has contributed to a significant increase in infant mortality because of the vulnerability of this age group and their need for medical services on a quick response basis.

Syrian children in the occupied Syrian Golan suffer from difficult health conditions and discriminatory policies against them and against the Syrian citizens in general, in particular, the high costs of medical services on their burden imposed by the Israeli occupation, which are disproportionate with the Syrian citizen low level of income. Furthermore, Syrian children in the occupied Syrian Golan are deprived from access to health services and medical treatment in specialized centers that meet their needs, as well as neglect, malnutrition and lack of basic health information. This led to a rise in the number of death among Syrian children in the Golan which constitutes a flagrant violation of their rights ensured in the provisions of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights law—particularly Geneva Convention IV and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, the Syrian child in the Golan suffers from health problems such as lack of drinking water and health and environmental pollution because of the dumping of toxic industrial waste in the Syrian lands in the Golan, not to mention the health repercussions of Israeli military actions in the occupied Golan.

Target (18): By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other infectious diseases.

The Syrian Arab Republic is a malaria-free country. The number of cases reported by international sources is 23 cases, in 2010, and has risen to 42 cases by 2012. The same sources have not recorded any cases after 2012. As for tuberculosis, the incidence of the disease is from 17 to 20 per 100,000 of the population between 2010 and 2015. The proportion of TB patients treated with the DOT regimen fluctuated between 2010 and 2015. The availability or non-availability of medicine and the prevention by the terrorist groups of citizens' access to health facilities have had a large impact on the rise and fall of the percentage of the disease.

The total number of AIDS cases in the Syrian Arab Republic since 1987 until the end of 2015 was 845, of which 517 were Syrian--206 of whom have died--and 18 were non-resident. The number of people living with HIV and are receiving treatment is 142 cases. Treatment and counseling are provided free of charge through AIDS-specialized centers. National strategies are being developed to prevent the spread of the disease to pregnant mothers, as well as monitoring detection of the disease in pre-marital testing clinics.

Leishmania is a widespread disease and combating it is a priority in the Syrian Arab Republic. The rate of infection has increased significantly between 2010 and 2015, with a total increase of 20.8% due to the unstable situation in some areas such as the governorates of Aleppo, Idlib, Al-Raqqa and Deir Al-Zour, which recorded higher rates of infection than the rest of the governorates as a result of environmental degradation, particularly in relation to sanitation and lack of access to unstable areas—where the terrorist armed groups were spread, and where the pathogen fly that causes the disease is rampant.

Target (19): By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.

Cancer is the third leading cause of death in the Syrian Arab Republic. Despite the fact that the mortality rate of cancer patients has fallen—compared to the total number of deaths-- the rate of the disease is still high. Cancer mortality, about 5% of the total mortality in the Syrian Arab Republic, has been stable since 2011. The unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic have impeded the import of the relevant treatment and medical supplies for Cancer patient, resulting in a shortage of medicines, increased financial burdens on patients and high financial burdens on the government that offers free treatment and medication to cancer patients. It should be noted that the Syrian Arab Republic has not received any real or adequate support from donors or the United Nations to support the medical services for cancer patients.

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

The pre-war education system has achieved multiple successes in the achievement of the millennium goal of universal education, the most notable of which is the high enrollment rates in schools and universities, especially female students and the improvement of components of education-infrastructure and human resources. However, the issue of geographical disparities has emerged as a fundamental problem in this sector, as well as limited enrollment in vocational and technical education.

In spite of the successes achieved in the field of education in all its stages, this sector suffers from many problems such as: low efficiency, on all levels, of its economic output-resulting in widespread waste, a poorly qualified workforce with low productivity, an absence of quality control that results in education being offered as a mere service, dearth of modern educational methods and negligence of technology and information technology as education tools. Education in the Syrian Arab Republic is also characterized by a clichéd approach and way of thinking that results in a failure to link education, economically and socially, with its surrounding environment not to mention enhancing its economic, educational and consciousness raising outcomes. The problematics of linking education to labor markets, open-admission or assimilation policies and the relationship between the various outputs of education (secondary school, vocational training, intermediate institutes and university) remain deficient. All the above has resulted in a population with sub-qualitative characteristics. Those with a university education still do not exceed 5% of the total population.

Target (29): By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

The education sector has made significant progress in achieving the quantitative targets of the Millennium Development Goals before the war. Most of its indicators were close to the target indicators for 2015. During the war, it was one of the most war-affected sectors and that is due to its very nature: being wide-spread and involving various categories of children and young people. In 2010 and 2016, the number of schools had dropped by 29%, the total number of students by 23% and the number of teachers by 12%. This decline was due to some schools becoming dysfunctional as a result of damage, or being transformed into shelters or being located in an unstable area. This situation has led some students and faculty members to drop out of education as a result of displacement towards stable areas or as a result of hard up economic conditions.

In 2011, the Syrian Arab Republic came close to fully achieving the Millennium Development Goal of universal education. However, this goal was severely affected by the war. The net enrollment rate dropped from 97% to 75% in 2011 and 2016 respectively. This figure was the lowest in 2013, falling to 61%. This decline is explained by poor enrollment and extensive dropout rates caused by the movement of households to stable areas and by the difficult economic conditions of some households, which have forced some children into the labor market. The fact that some

schools have gone out of service, and/or their being used as shelters and/or their being located in unstable areas have contributed significantly to this decline. Had the progress of the pre-war enrollment rates continued to its conclusion, enrollment rate would have reached 99%, but the war has left a large gap of about 24%.

The rate of dropping out of basic education increased between 2010 and 2016 from 3.6% to 27%. The dropout rate was highest in 2013, rising to 30% due to the war which led many students to become displaced and/or dropouts of schools. If there had been no war, estimates show that the dropout rate in basic education as 1% only, and this rate is relatively acceptable in view of the expansion of Syrian rural areas and the prevalence of seasonal labor in the agricultural and livestock sectors.

The Syrian government has adopted various types of interventions to improve the continuity of education and to mitigate the negative impact of war, such as adopting “Condensed education” (curriculum B) aimed at children who have dropped out of education, self-learning based on self-learning activities by the learner without a teacher or school textbook, compensatory education and school clubs that teach classes aimed at learners who—because of war circumstances—are left with gaps in their education ranging from two months to a whole semester, in addition to complementary courses aimed at students who have failed some of their courses because of being on the move and suffering from displacement, lack of security and anxiety.

It has to be noted, however, that during the war the terrorist armed groups seized control of schools in unstable areas, and turned them into bases for their terrorist operations. To address this issue and face these violations, and realizing the importance of education and the stability of the educational process even in unstable areas, the Syrian government continued to pay the salaries of the educational staff and to provide all the requirements of the process in all Syrian areas without any discrimination.

As for education in the occupied Syrian Golan, the number of children in the occupied Golan has reached approximately 6,000 children in 12 schools, including 6 primary schools and 4 preparatory and secondary schools. In addition, there are 13 kindergartens and a nursery for 800 children. All these educational facilities were set up by the Syrian citizens in the occupied Golan with their own funds and managed by them with the assistance of the government of the Syrian government and some relevant international organizations. However, the Israeli occupation authorities is forcing Syrian children to learn Hebrew instead of Arabic, and is imposing an Israeli educational curriculum to eliminate the Syrian curricula in the Golan schools to serve the Israeli racist objectives in flagrant violation of the Security Council Resolution 497 ,(1981), International Law, International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.

Target (30): By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

The rate of enrollment in kindergartens dropped from 12% in 2010 to 8% in 2016, a decrease of 33% due to the instability the Syrian households suffered during the war, forcing a change in their priorities. The order of

the Syrian household’s expenditure priorities has shifted due to the hard up economic situation. Since most of preschool education is run by the private sector, households prioritize spending on food and housing instead. Public kindergartens that charge nominal fees can only accommodate 14% of all preschool children. The decline in the number of kindergartens from 1866, in 2010 to 1447, in 2016 has had a negative impact on enrollment rates.

Target (31): By 2030 ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university education.

The proportion of students in vocational secondary schools—out of the total number of secondary students—has dropped from 21% to 17% between 2010 and 2016. The number of students was the lowest in 2014, with the proportion of secondary school students dropping to 17%, a decrease of 19%. This was due to the circumstances of the war with its various ramifications. This percentage improved in 2015 to 19% and then fall back to 17%, in 2016. As for university education, the number of females enrolled in higher education increased significantly during the war years. The percentage of males to females decreased from 93% in 2010 to 81% in 2015.

Target (32): By 2030, increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

Indicators of this target were covered under Goal 8 on growth and decent labor.

Target (33): By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations.

The percentage of females to total males in all educational stages increased from 93% in 2010 to 96% in 2016, indicating that this percentage fluctuates up and down in accordance with the educational stage. For example, the decline in vocational secondary education reached 24% between 2010 and 2016, while it has risen by 6% in general secondary education due to the circumstances of the war.

Target (35): By 2030 ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote ... development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.

This indicator has been covered under Target (33).

Target (36): Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

The average number of students per class increased from 27 students/ class in 2010 to 31 students/ class in 2016, an increase of 11%, indicating that this ratio fluctuates up and down in accordance with the educational level in question. For example, the rate of increase in basic education reached 15% between 2010 and 2016 and this rate sustained in the secondary and secondary vocational levels, while on the level of kindergartens the rate declined reaching 0.4%. The percentage of schools which contain gender-sensitive educational facilities remained constant between 2010 and 2016 at 95% of the total of schools.

Target (37): By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small- island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programs, in developed countries and other developing countries.

The number of students who have scholarship to study abroad has dropped from 777 to 2011 to 437 in 2015. This decline is due a number of countries suspending their academic exchange agreements signed with the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as the inability of the Syrian State to bank transfer the stipends to those students due to the unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

There were improvements as well as drawbacks at the same time regarding the empowerment of women and girls. In the education sector, the ratio of girls to boys in both basic primary and secondary education is varied, not reaching the target in primary education and vocational secondary education. However, the percentage was higher than the Millennium Development Goal aspired to for women empowerment in secondary and tertiary education. In the health sector, the Syrian Arab Republic has advanced very close to meeting the requirements of improving reproductive health and reducing maternal mortality rates. In the area of economic empowerment, there was an increase in the participation of women in paid jobs in the non-agricultural sectors in general as well as in hotel, restaurant and other services in particular.

Target (39): End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

Social (health and education) indicators regarding the empowerment of women and girls were covered in the third and fourth objectives. In terms of economic empowerment, the rate of economic activity declined slightly from 27% in 2010 to 25.7% in 2014. While the ratio varied between males and females, still the gender gap remained clear while the rate for men was 43.8%, and only 12% for women, in 2014.

The percentage of women working outside their homes increased significantly during the war years from 72%, in 2010 to 85% in 2014, compared to the low percentage of women working within the household and/or those who are self-employed. The gender gap in employment deepened during the war putting university educated women's unemployment at nearly double that of university educated men, in 2014 (33% for men versus 61.7% for women). Women's participation in the services sector increased to 78%, in 2014, up from 57.6%, in 2010. The rate of women's participation in the agricultural sector decreased from 22%, in 2010 to reach only 6%. The decline in the percentile share of women labor in the agricultural-dependent governorates such as Raqqa, Hama, Idlib and Deir El-Zour is associated with instability as well as lack of raw materials, equipment and energy resources, farmers being barred from going to their fields, the burning of crops by terrorist armed groups and the extensive destruction caused by the «international coalition» aircrafts on targeting the agricultural sector.

Target (40): Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

Legislative Decree No. 3 of 2010 on the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons focuses in particular importance on women and children victims, and considered women and children to be victims and not criminals themselves. In this regard, a specialized anti-human trafficking department was established for this purpose.

The number of cases of women trafficking and sexual abuse decreased from 737, in 2011 to 587, in 2015 as a result of the measures taken by the Syrian government to combat these crimes. In addition, the number of cases of violence against women decreased to 86 cases during the years 2011-2015 as a result of the enforcement of laws for aggravating punishment for such crimes. Hence the need arises to adopt social, economic and psychological reintegration programs for women victims of violence in the post-war period.

Working Syrian women in the occupied Syrian Golan suffer from exploitation that is not limited to poor wages, but also extends to unfair conditions of employment. The Israeli occupation authorities and Israeli settlers deprive the working Syrian women of their rights to insurance, work permits and incentives. They are also not allowed to benefit from the various saving funds and other privileges usually provided by institutions. In most cases, Syrian women and girls work without the benefit of compensation for years of service.

Moreover, the Israeli occupation authorities have paid no attention to the rights of the Syrian child in the occupied Syrian Golan. Despite its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Israeli authorities prevent relevant Human Right Council's mechanisms from exercising their mandate related to monitoring and assessing the situation of the Syrians in the occupied Syrian Golan.

Target (41): Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation FMG/female circumcision.

The proportion of married women under the age of 18 declined from 18% in 1993 to 8.3% in 2010. This decrease is due to an increase in girls' enrollment in education, especially in secondary education. The war has had a clear impact on the situation of children in general and on the situation of female children in particular, where this age group has been negatively affected psychologically, physically, socially, educationally and in terms of health and living conditions. Tragically, girls, particularly those in refugee camps, were forced to marry while they are still minors. These early marriages are not registered in countries that set the age of marriage at 18 years such as Jordan and Turkey. This, in turn, confirms the existence of multiple violations of the rights of young girls in this regard, while girls are deprived of their rights as children, such as the rights to: live with parents or within a family, play, learn and enjoy care from adults, in addition to being deprived of the right to choose a partner and enjoy the privileges of stability and security. In addition to that, they are deprived of the right to register their marriages—because they contravene the age of marriage—thus depriving them of access to any right in the event of separation/divorce.

The proportion of teenage girls in the age group (15-19) giving birth was about 4% of total birthing mothers in 2009. This means that there are about 30 thousand births annually for teenage mothers, assuming that the number of annual births is about 650 thousand births. Data for 2009 show that 86% of deliveries of young girls in this category took place in a health facility, which can be attributed to the awareness of the importance of giving birth in such facility. This rate is expected to rise during the years 2011-2015, due to the high number of early marriages in refugee camps.

Target (42): Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as appropriate on the national level.

The national system of accounts in the Syrian Arab Republic still excludes household work by women. The majority of women are paid or self-employed. The data on the real situation of workers indicates the importance of salaries and fixed wages as the main source of income in the country. The percentage of those working for wages reached 53.7% of employed population in 2007, to increase to 61.2%, in 2010. The percentage of the self employed and the number of family members in the workforce increased from 28.8%, in 2010 to 29.8%, in 2011. These changes indicate that workers tend to prefer seeking a steady income job rather than venturing into unsteady market jobs, in particular in light of some distortion in the job market during the change of market form before the war.

The trend of ongoing changes in the situation of workers continued during the war. In 2013, the percentage of waged workers increased to 68%, while those self-employed, working for the family or for employers decreased to 3.4%. These changes indicate a significant loss in the percentage of work, whether of employers and family enterprises

Target (43): Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.

Article 33 of the new Syrian constitution, of 2012, stipulates equality between citizens without discrimination. The rights of the family and women in particular are included in articles 20-22-23. In addition, Articles 29-30-31 refer to the rights to education, health, state responsibility, building a strong generation intellectually and morally, as well as supporting scientific research and all the requirements of creativity. The Constitution's articles 33-34-36-40-42-43 focus on rights and duties, the right to freedom contribution to public life, work, freedom of belief and freedom of the press.

Under the old constitution, of 1973, and the new one, 2012, Syrian women have the right to full participation in social and political life as men. Syrian women are given opportunities for participation in political and public life and in decision-making positions. The Syrian government decreed both laws of elections and parties in order to promote democracy-building and public freedoms and to involve all segments of society, including women, in the management of state institutions and in nation-building.

The representation of women in the People's Assembly has been stable since the ninth legislative session (2007-2011), and up till now featuring 12%. In the 2016 People's Assembly elections, a woman became the speaker of the People's Assembly for the first time in the Syrian Arab Republic. In the diplomatic field, the percentage of women ambassadors increased from 11%, in 2010 to 15%, in 2015, not to mention that the first woman serving in the diplomatic corps in the Arab World was a Syrian woman.

Target (44): Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Program of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

Indicators already analyzed under Goal 3.

Target (45): Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources in accordance with national laws.

Syrian Laws and legislations do not discriminate between men and women as to property and labor. A committee was formed in 2013 to review the legal instruments in force and specifically to increase the role of Syrian women.

Target (46): Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

The impact of information communication technology ICT is now expanding widely in all sectors, from production to productive and social services. This technology plays an essential role in the development of modern societies, as it is linked to all activities leading to the dissemination and production of knowledge, ranging from education and the written, audio and visual media, to cultural and intellectual production.

The percentage of the population with access to ICT services has increased from 201 per 1000, in 2010 to reach about 230 per 1000, in 2011. This percentage dropped as a result of the destruction and terrorism that targeted infrastructure to reach 170 person per 1000, in 2015.

Telephone centers have been repeatedly targeted by terrorist armed groups, and by the operations of the “International Coalition,” which have resulted in extensive damage to relevant service facilities, such as the bombing on the 4th of August, 2016 of the telephone center of the Manbij district in rural Aleppo, which resulted in the collapse of the entire building thus totally destroying its contents and equipment.

As for the spread of the use of mobile phones, the number of subscribers rose from 110 subscribers per 1000, in 2010 to 569 subscribers per 1000, in 2015.

The percentage of women working in research and development increased from 34%, in 2010 to 38%, in 2014. The percentage of women researchers per million of the population increased from 169 to 202, during the same period. These rates are expected to rise significantly during the coming years influenced by the higher female to male ratio in university education.

Target (47): Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

The Constitution of the Syrian Arab Republic contains many articles that the Syrian State guarantees its citizens the enjoyment of all rights regardless of sex. The Personal Status Law also guarantees women’s rights in all aspects of life. The Syrian Arab Republic has become a member in the ILO in 1961, and has ratified 49 conventions/agreements, such as the major conventions related to women in the labor force such as: Convention No.111 Concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation of 1958, Convention No.100 of Equal Remuneration, of 1951, Convention No.156 of 1981, for Workers with Family Responsibility, Convention No. 183, of 2000, for Maternity Protection, Convention No. 82, of 1999 concerning Worst Forms of Child Labor, and ILO convention of 1975 concerning Equal Remuneration.

Furthermore, the Syrian Arab Republic is also a contracting party in the following conventions: International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984; CEDAW; and Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, ratified on 8, 4, 2009.

Goal 6: Ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation services for all.

Target (48): By 2030, Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

Waves of droughts that occurred in the Syrian Arab Republic have led to a reduction in water reserves and renewable resources. These were accompanied by high population growth rates, which have affected the possibility of improving the supply of drinking water, especially in terms of the individual's share of drinking water.

The percentage of the population supplied with drinking water has decreased from 95% in 2011 to 93% in 2015. This is seen as a natural result of the war repercussions affecting the infrastructure including water networks and pumping stations on the one hand, and the low financial ability to spend on the water sector on the other. Although the public water network is connected to most Syrian homes, the constant lack of water in the pipes – due to the problem of water shortage, the decline in the groundwater supply and the population pressure in some areas (especially the stable ones to which displaced people have moved to from unstable areas) in addition to the damages that affected the infrastructure of water and electricity networks – made around 10.2% of Syrian households in 2015 resort to purchasing water transported by tankers to meet some of their water needs for domestic use. This increased the living burdens on such households.

During the war years, the individual's share of drinking water has also declined considerably. This has deepened the negative effects of drought crises and low water stocks. After reaching (119 liters per day) in 2011, the per capita share of water has gradually declined to (80 liters per day) in 2015, doubling the impact of the decrease in the amount of water produced for drinking purposes at an annual average of (12%) between 2011 and 2015.

This vital sector has been deliberately targeted by the terrorist armed groups that have destroyed and poisoned water stations, wells and water networks, in addition to targeting most drinking water facilities by the “international coalition”, particularly in the eastern areas, such as its destruction of “Sahamiat Drinking Water Station” and “Sabah Al-Khair Pumping Station” in the governorate of Raqqa in January 2016. Not to mention that the sector was affected by the lack of international funding and unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic, which affected the imported requirements of the water work sector and the programs of international organizations dedicated to supporting this sector.

Target (49): By 2030, achieve the goal of universal access to sanitation and hygiene services, put an end to defecation in the open and pay special attention to the needs of women and girls and those living in vulnerable situations.

During the war years, the percentage of the population benefiting from the sanitation networks declined from (77%) in 2011 to (75%) in 2015. This decline is attributed to the damage caused by some parts of the sewage networks as a result of the current conditions on the one hand, and the slowdown in the replacement and expansion operations of the sanitation systems on the other.

Target (50): By 2030 Improving water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

The percentage of the population benefiting from the treatment plants declined sharply from (80%) in urban centers and (36%) in rural areas to (7%) in urban centers and (4%) in rural areas between 2011 and 2015. This sharp decline is due to the fact that the main stations were out of service such as stations in (Adra, Aleppo, Daraya, and Homs) due to the circumstances of the war. There is here an urgent need to rehabilitate the damaged stations and expand the the establishment of new treatment plants.

Target (51): By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors, and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.

The data about water basins indicates an increase in water deficit in all basins except for Al-Sahel and Euphrates basins. This decrease in water flow revenue is due to climate conditions and an increased demand for water. All basins witnessed an improvement in the water situation due to the increase in rainfall and reduced irrigated areas as a result of war conditions between 2014 and 2015. There is a need to focus on encouraging non-water-consuming industries, especially in basins that suffer from water deficit, and a need to replace crops and water-consuming breeds with crops and breeds aligned with the nature of water in each basin (without compromising food security), as well as continuing with plans for network renewal and replacement to increase their efficiency.

The rate of physical waste of irrigation networks (evaporation, leakage, and other factors) between 2011 and 2015 increased from 33% to 36% due to damages in some parts of the irrigation systems as a result of the current conditions and the slowdown and stopping of maintenance, monitoring and water measurements because most of these projects are located in unstable areas. The Syrian government has addressed the damage in the irrigation systems locally, according to priority, the accessibility and availability of material resources. In order to achieve a reduction in waste, irrigation methods should be improved through modern irrigation technologies, reuse of sewage and agricultural water to irrigate additional areas, review the approved agricultural plan, incorporate planting new types of improved crops that do not demand so much water.

Target (52): By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

In 2009, the Syrian Arab Republic adopted the National Integrated Water Resources Management Strategy and implemented some of its projects. The Syrian Arab Republic has signed cooperation agreements with neighboring countries to improve the utilization of trans-boundary water resources, especially the Euphrates and Tigris rivers with Iraq and Turkey. However, with the continuation of the war on the Syrian Arab Republic, most of these projects have been suspended due to a change in national priorities. Turkey has also cut and reduced the Syrian Arab Republic's share of Euphrates water. The targeting by ISIS terrorists of Syrian dams and the operations of "the international Coalition" in the areas where they are spread, especially against the Euphrates Dam, in addition to the targeting of Syrian technicians involved in the maintenance and operation of these dams_ such as the targeting of the technicians preserving the status of the Euphrates Dam on March 27, 2017_ led to massive destruction of the water infrastructure. This has affected agriculture and drinking water.

Target (53): By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

The forests and natural reserves that the Syrian state has been developing and maintaining for decades have been subjected to various forms of systematic damage such as logging and burning.

It is important to note that Israel, the occupation power, has burned most of the natural forests located in the areas separating the liberated Syrian territories and those still under the Israeli occupation in the occupied Syrian Golan, including those located in Jabbat al-Khashab, Taranga, Bir Ajam, Bariqa and other places.

The Syrian dams in the areas with heavy presence of terrorist armed groups were severely damaged, such as the Euphrates Dam in the governorate of Raqqa, and the dams in Quneitra and Daraa governorates, leaving them out of service and thus depriving of farmers from benefiting from irrigating their crops.

Target (54): By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation-related activities and programs, including the water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.

The drinking water sector was not a priority before the war because the sector's situation, with its various indicators, was good. The international assistance provided during that period was low (it was estimated at 11 USD per capita in 2010). With the beginning of international cooperation to mitigate the impact of the war, particularly in the

framework of humanitarian response plans, in addition to support from international donors, the sector has become a priority given the extensive damage to its capacity and requirements. The amount of support provided has increased from 6.7 million USD in 2013 to 19.4 million USD) by 2015.

Target (55): Supporting and promoting community participation in improving water and sanitation management.

The number of water user associations increased significantly from (62) in 2011 to (127) in 2015. This is due to the increase in the need for the role of civil society in raising the efficiency of private irrigation systems and the practical organization accompanying the high proportion of land irrigated by modern irrigation methods, along with the decrease in water available for irrigation due to the drought crises experienced by the Syrian Arab Republic.

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030.

Target (56): By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.

Demand for electric power increased from (23 billion kwh) in 2000 to (49 billion kwh) in 2011, which means an annual growth rate of 7%, while the population grew from about 16 million in 2000 to about 21 million in 2011, then electric power per capita increased from (1450 kwh per capita) in 2000 to about (2350 kwh per capita per year in 2011, . an average annual growth rate of 4.5%. The percentage of beneficiaries of electric power reached about (100%).

Due to the circumstances of the war, and because of the attacks on the oil gas production fields, and the transportation lines by the terrorist armed groups and the operations of the “International Coalition” and affiliated militias, oil production dropped to about 8 thousand barrels per day during the first quarter of 2016. The production of fuel gas dropped to 11.7 million cubic meters per day, with currently about 8 million cubic meters reaching the generating stations daily. The production of fuel oil has decreased in Syrian refineries to about 440 thousand tons annually, which has negatively affected supplies to electric power stations. The shortage of fuel imports has clearly affected electricity production from power generation stations. Electric power production has dropped from 49 billion kwh in 2011 to 24 billion kwh in 2014. In 2015, the produced energy in power generating stations reached 20 billion kwh at an annual rate of reduction of 20%. Peak capacity that was met has dropped from (9000) megawatts in 2011 to about 3465 megawatts in 2015, whereas the demand for peak load is currently estimated at 6000-7000 megawatts.

Target (57): By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. (The proportion of renewable energy to total and final consumption of energy).

The share of renewable energies out of energy balance is modest due to the high cost of construction. The National Energy Research Center (NREC) has developed a strategy until the year 2030 with contribution proportions of renewable energies in the energy balance reaching in the field of generating electricity until the year 2030 4% out of the total demand (for photovoltaic stations and electro-wind farms). The strategy was updated in 2016 to provide 3 million tons of oil equivalent which is equivalent to 7% of the total primary energy demand in 2013.

It is important to emphasize the need for international support for this important sector, and the need for suspension of European and American coercive economic measures imposed on it and on the electricity sector in general, in order to enhance its role in responding to the needs of the Syrian people and in supporting their resilience, given the lack of oil resources, and to support the production process.

Target (58): Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030.

The total demand for various high voltage grids in 2000 was 17 million tons of oil equivalent. The per capita primary energy consumption was 1019 kg oil equivalent. In 2011, it reached about 24 million kg oil equivalent. The primary energy per capita was (about 1145 kg oil equivalent). Energy demand in 2011 was met by 65% of oil and its derivatives, 30% of natural gas, and 5% of hydroelectric and biogas resources (firewood).

The impact of the war began in late 2011 and was manifested by the decrease in oil production due to the suspension of exporting it following the imposition of unilateral coercive economic measures on the Syrian Arab Republic by some Western countries on the oil sector, and consequently the deterioration of production as a result of terrorist transgressions and the ongoing operations of “International Coalition” on the oil and gas facilities. The fulfilled demand for the energy generating grids in 2015 reached 10.36 million oil equivalent , i.e, by 44% of oil and its derivatives, by 41% of natural gas and by about 15% of hydropower and biomass resources (firewood).

An example of the attacks on, and destruction of, the Syrian oil and gas facilities is the systematic “International Coalition” targeting of dozens of oil and gas fields, facilities, wells and related stations, such as targeting the “North Al-Hussein Gas Station” and “Rasm Al-Koum Station” in Raqqa governorate in December 2015. The “international Coalition” also targeted the entire “Kobeiba Oil Station” in Deir Al-Zour governorate on 8/12/2015, destroying its tanks, buildings and facilities completely (this target includes many other examples).

An example of what the Syrian oil and gas fields and installations suffered at the hands of the armed terrorist groups is dismantling and robbery of equipment and installations of the «Gebesa Gas Investment Directorate» in Al-Hasakah governorate, deporting them outside Gebesa Gas Plant and plundering the stored materials in the directorate.

Target (59): Enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, and to promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology by 2030.

During the war, grants and subsidies for this field have declined due to the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic and the current circumstances, support was limited to relief projects only. It is necessary to develop international cooperation and provide the necessary international funding and expertise to update renewable energy studies and plans.

Target (60): To expand infrastructure and improve the level of technology for the provision of modern and sustainable energy services to all in developing countries, especially in the least developed countries, small developing island states, and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective support programs by 2030.

Unilateral coercive economic measures affected the electricity sector, especially the illegal; European measures enforced on this sector. Most of the contracts with foreign companies concerning power plant projects have stalled. Many loans for projects under implementation have been suspended. There was a difficulty obtaining replacement parts needed for the maintenance of some generating stations. Foreign companies supplying most of the electrical equipment refrained from participation in the requests for tendering and bids announced by the Ministry of Electricity and its affiliate institutions to ensure supply of their needs of materials for the rehabilitation of electrical networks that have been subjected to sabotage and assault. As a result of the war, the Ministry of Electricity's plans to increase the share of renewable energy in the energy resources package also faltered, especially with the developed countries not giving the Syrian Arab Republic a significant support for the clean energies during the war. Investment in this field reached (0.38%) between 2010 and 2015, while it was expected to reach up to 44% of total energy investments in 2021-2025 and 24% between 2026-2030.

Goal 8: To promote increasing, sustainable and inclusive economic growth for all, full and productive employment, and the provision of decent work for all.

The terrorist war against the Syrian Arab Republic, accompanied with the imposing of unilateral coercive economic measures, were factors in curbing all economic activities and the overall ongoing reform process, imposing a series of challenges that had a direct impact manifested during the war. It is expected that this will still have a more profound impact in the coming years, especially with respect to human development and long-term economic growth factors. The resulting damage is not only confined to the immediate negative impact of the war and the unilateral coercive economic measures, but it goes beyond that to expected future negative consequences related to several factors, the most important of which is the low level of production and the poor capability to finance the development process, which in turn will be reflected in poverty, unemployment, and inflation, and in the poor level of services provided to citizens, especially health and education services. Thus, they will all lead to catastrophic losses in human development and the standard of living of Syrian citizens.

Target (61): Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances, and in particular at least 7% GDP per annually in the least developed countries.

GDP shrank between 2010 and 2015 by an annual average of 11%. The decline in growth rates was due to the outcomes of the war which led to a large part of the agricultural and industrial production areas to be dysfunctional as a result of destructive acts committed by terrorist armed groups, and the enforced unilateral coercive economic measures. Although the growth rate remained negative throughout the war years, it began to improve considerably from 2014 and continued in 2015 as a result of gradual coping with the circumstances of the war and the continuous attempts to find alternative solutions to re-start the economy. The average rate of population growth during the years (2010-2014) was about (0.4%), while the per capita GDP reached (122834 Syrian Pounds) in 2010, only to decline to (60249 SP) in 2015, a decline estimated at (11.9%).

Target (62): To achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labor-intensive sectors.

Quantitative factors, capital and labor, were the main source of economic growth between 2011 and 2015. During the second half of the first decade of the millennium 2006-2010, there was a significant but not sufficient improvement in the contribution of qualitative factors (Total Factor Productivity), which are the source of sustainability in economic growth. In the period between 2010-2015, the contribution of both quantitative and physical factors was negative due to a considerable decline in growth rate and the process of maintaining negative values (for change) throughout the period. The major negative contribution of qualitative factors was (86.60) as an average between 2010 and 2015, and (13.40) for physical factors. The contribution of physical factors in reducing the rate of growth during the war is

observed here. This decline in the contribution of pre-war qualitative factors and the decline in the post-war growth rate is explained by a number of factors, on top of which is the low level of technology which sharply declined in the war, low human capital efficiency due to lack of adequate utilization of competencies and the brain drain, low quality level of education and training, decreased level on research and development activities (R & D), and finally, the low level of institutional factors and natural resources (land, climate).

Target (63): To promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent work opportunities, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including access to financial services.

The Syrian Arab Republic has paid increased attention to the support of small and medium-sized enterprises, providing an appropriate legislative environment to organize its work, encouraging creativity and innovation by supporting and developing scientific research, and rewarding and encouraging creative people. It has also encouraged entrepreneurship and individual initiatives by providing facilitation for credit and loans and by supporting the financing of micro enterprises. Moreover, the Syrian State has issued Law No. (15) of 2007 for licensing of lending and microfinance institutions, as well as Law No. /2/ of 2016 establishing the Commission of Development of Small and Medium Enterprises.

Target (64): Improve progressively through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.

The Syrian Government promoted projects aiming at sustaining natural resources and their efficiency. It has given priority to projects that use renewable energies to pump water for the sustainability of water resources. It has also encouraged alternative and clean energy projects, biogas power generation projects from cow manure in farms, and projects to preserve forests from fires. It has taken serious measures to re-orient economic and social support from a clear and comprehensive vision based on sound economic and social selection criteria, with a view to combating waste and its causes, and preserving the sustainability of natural resources. In order to improve the efficiency of the use of water resources, the Syrian Government has adopted an approach to shift to modern irrigation methods, as it seeks to provide support through a special project the main goal of which is to improve the efficiency of the use of natural resources.

Target (65): By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

The number of workers decreased from (5054) thousand in 2010 to (2611) thousand in 2015, especially among male workers, as a result of migration and the great damage that affected the agricultural and industrial sectors. With regard to the employment of persons with disabilities, Syrian laws prohibit discrimination against persons

with disabilities. while Law No. 34 of 2004 prohibits such discrimination, stressing the integration of persons with disabilities into the labor market. However, there are still some difficulties in implementing this law. 5% of government jobs have been allocated for persons with disabilities.

Equal pay is one of the most important problems of employment in the Syrian Arab Republic in terms of a clear decline in the real wage rates of the majority of wage earners, especially if we take into account the price levels of different goods and services, which led to the expansion of cheap labor. The average monthly wage for public sector employees was (16975) in 2010, rising to (27,400) in 2016, with a growth rate of 0.1%.

The percentage of wage earners to total employees reached (63%) in 2010, whereas the percentage of workers in the agricultural sector reached (14%) in 2010, only to fall to (9.5%) in 2015 with a negative annual growth rate of (8.4%).

Target (66): By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.

The percentage of youth participation between the age 15 to 24 in the labor force was (22%) in 2010, rising slightly to (23.8%) in 2014. Young people in the labor market faced many problems in terms of job opportunities due to low demand for new youth in the labor market, the increasing supply of labor force, and the mismatch between the skills of new candidates and the needs of the labor market. The number of unemployed graduates of universities and intermediate institutes was (175) thousand workers in 2011, which led to the emergence of high rates of unemployment among young people in the age group (15-24) years, which accounted for the total unemployed (52.1%) in 2010, declining to (32.7%) in 2015. However, this does not mean a decrease in the number of unemployed young people, as the number of unemployed young people in 2015 increased by (553) thousand in 2010.

Target (67): Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end all forms of child labor.

National labor laws prohibited the child labor for children under the age of 15. The Syrian Arab Republic ratified the Convention on the Rights of Children by Law No. 8 of 13/6/1993, the two optional protocols, and the International Labor Conventions, some of which contain provisions concerning the employment and protection of juveniles. The Syrian Arab Republic sought to implement these conventions since joining the ILO on 13/12/1947. The provisions of the Syrian Labor Law No. (17) of 2010, which provides for the protection of working children, are in accordance with the international standards, as stipulated in the convention for the minimum age for employment No. (138). In addition, under Law No. (42), 2003, the Syrian Commission for Family and Population Affairs (SCFPA) was established, with a mandate of action for the development and empowerment of the Syrian family, including child rights and population development issues.

Target (68): To protect labor rights and promote a safe and secure working environment for all workers, including migrant workers, and in particular migrant women.

Syrian legislations and laws guarantee the rights of workers. For example, the 2012 constitution of the Syrian Arab Republic guarantees that every citizen has the right and duty to work. The Syrian State provides all citizens with labor opportunities and a fair wage according to the quality of the work and its returns, but not less than the minimum wage which guarantees the living requirements and withstands any changes in the living conditions. The Syrian State also offers social and health insurance for workers and protects the labor force through special laws. However, the main problem is the multiplicity of references, conditions and rights, which makes the labor force divided according to the terms of reference to which they were subjected. This imbalance is further exacerbated by the lack of comprehensive coverage of some provisions of the Social Insurance Law, the thing which the Syrian government is keen to address to cover workers in wider sectors of the private and agricultural sectors, as well as the workers in the informal sector. When properly addressed, this will put the labor force under a proper insurance coverage or under a guaranteed registration and control mechanism.

Target (69): By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

The tourism sector is one of the most affected sectors by the war as a result of the targeting of archeological sites by armed terrorist groups, and plundering, looting and smuggling their artifacts and objects, in addition to the decrease in the number of tourists due to poor stability in some areas, and the impact of unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic. Although it is difficult to accurately measure this vulnerability, it can be inferred by some alternative indicators of the reality of tourism during the war. The tourism sector has declined significantly during the years (2011-2015), while the number of hotels and beds remained almost as they are during the above-mentioned period. As for Arab and foreign arrivals during this period, the average rate of growth declined respectively (32.1%, 56.4%). The rate of growth of hotel guests for Arabs and Syrians was (1.6%). There was a decline in the number of foreign guests at an average rate of (66.2%). Later, the number of hotel overnight rents for foreigners fell by an average of (61%). The number of visitors to museums declined by an average of (27.8%), whereas the number of visitors to archaeological sites decreased by an average of (60.9%). Previous quantitative indicators show a decline in the contribution of the tourism sector to GDP.

Target (70): Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to promote access to and expansion of banking, insurance and financial services for all.

The government has taken many steps to enhance the capacity of banks and facilitate the services of clients, but the unilateral economic and financial coercive measures imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic have undermined

the envisaged results of the governmental efforts and have blocked channels of communication between foreign and Syrian banks with money networks, funds and international banks. This weakened the Syrian banking system and undermined its ability to develop itself and perform its functions optimally in financing the basic imports for Syrians, especially the production, energy, food and medicine production inputs and among others.

The continued unilateral coercive financial measures on the Central Bank of Syria since the beginning of the war in 2011 to date is the most serious, as it is the main bank authorized to support financial operations aimed at securing the main needs of the Syrians, and to finance commercial operations.

Target (71): To increase aid for trade support for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, including through the enhanced integrated framework for trade-related technical assistance to the least developed countries.

The Syrian Arab Republic has paid great attention to the promotion of inter-trade, the conclusion of agreements and the expansion of trade exchanges. It is also concerned with enhancing partnerships and agreements with friend countries, especially the BRICS countries; but Syria has not received material or technical aids from the developed countries that would support the role of the commercial sector. On the contrary, some developed countries have hindered the role of this vital sector which supports the Syrian economy and the needs of citizens by continuing to impose unilateral coercive economic measures on the Syrian trade sector. This was in addition to obstructing the accession of the Syrian Arab Republic to the World Trade Organization and the possibility of the Syrian Arab Republic benefiting from preferential benefits and trade aid just for political reasons.

Target (72): By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the ILO Global Jobs Pact.

The achievement of this target depends on the efforts of the international community, especially the role of the developed countries in supporting the national development plans of the developing countries, and coordinating the international efforts through the international organizations concerned with decent labor and youth employment issues. In terms of international cooperation, the Syrian government has conducted a number of studies on youth labor with the ILO and UNDP, but this cooperation has stopped because of the war.

Goal 9: To establish resilient infrastructure, stimulate inclusive industrialization and encourage innovation.

Target (73): To establish quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and cross-border infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being.

The transport sector has suffered heavy losses in recent years, especially passenger air travel and rail transportation. However, the road transportation infrastructure (such as the main and secondary road networks) has not been severely damaged. This sector is expected to recover its status and growth, as stability in the majority of the Syrian territories is growing day by day. The air transport sector may witness a remarkable development if unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic are lifted, and if there is a possibility again to purchase a number of aircrafts and aircraft spare parts, which are necessary for the promotion of air transport sector again (for passengers and goods alike).

During the war, industrial cities and zones have been repeatedly targeted by terrorist armed groups. The equipment and other contents of the factories were looted and some of them destroyed. Border crossings with neighboring countries have been severely affected, particularly with the closure of a number of them as a result of acts of vandalism and the spread of terrorist armed groups there; not to mention the use of some border crossings by some neighboring countries to facilitate the transit of foreign terrorist fighters and the supply of weapons and ammunition to terrorists. The Syrian Arab Republic is working to liberate these crossings to restore its natural role in supporting the movement of foreign trade and exporting more goods and services.

Target (74): To promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry share of employment and GDP, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in the least developed countries.

The number of institutions operating in the industrial sectors witnessed a considerable decrease during the years 2011-2014., with a drop from (1409) to (277) in 2013. The Syrian government worked to provide large facilitation for industrial institutions, which led to geographical shifts of important industries (such as the food and pharmaceutical industries). These institutions have increased the number of industrial facilitations operating until 2015 to reach 570.

Target (75): To increase the access of small-scale industrial enterprises, and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.

Despite the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed by several states and regional entities on the Syrian Arab Republic, and despite restrictions on remittances by these entities, the number of banks operating in the Syrian

Arab Republic remained stable with 20 active banks, and government procedures have contributed to the prevention of any bankruptcy in any of these banks (whether public or private).

The number of institutions providing financial services to support microenterprises increased from one institution in 2011 to three in 2015, due to issuing Law No. 15, of 2007, which provided the legislative environment for licensing such institutions, bearing in mind that before the war, there were a number of projects and institutions providing microfinance services such as the Syria Trust for Development, the Aga Khan Development Network and a number of international organizations.

The number of small-sized projects benefiting from loans and financing services declined considerably during the war years from about (73,000) in 2011 to (28,000) in 2015. This decline is attributed to the damage that hit these projects and the population displacement that was mainly related to the circumstances of the war.

Target (76): By 2030, to upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes.

All the waste treatment plants resulting from the industrialization process were gradually out of service during the years of war. Their number reached (201018) plants, owing to the damage caused by the war repercussions and its repeated targeting by terrorist armed groups, as they were located in rural areas.

It is noticeable that there is a significant decrease in the number of industrial establishments that benefit from the recycling of industrial waste in the past years from 6 plants in 2010 to one plant in 2015, especially in Aleppo governorate, as a result of the fact that some of these establishments were out of service being located in unstable areas where most of them were sabotaged and looted. The number of industrial plants that recycle their waste has been stable at 33 plants, with an expected increase in the coming years.

Target (77): To promote scientific research and upgrade technological capabilities in industrial sectors in all countries, especially developing countries by 2030.

The number of research centers, 37 centers, that support the industrial sector remained constant during the war years. However, the main problem is that the effectiveness and contribution of these centers remained limited, especially in relation to their services to the private sector. Most of the public research institutions were unable to develop their research tools to support the industrial sector. In contrast, there has been an increase in the number of technical incubators from 2 to 13 between 2010 and 2015. The number of successful projects supported by these incubators rose from 15 to 25 projects during the same period.

Target (78): To facilitate the development of sustainable and resilient infrastructure in developing countries through improved financial, technological and technical support for African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states.

As a result of the war, the number of industrial and handicraft enterprises decreased during the years 2011-2013 from (1409) to (570). These facilities are expected to restore their previous levels of operation after restoring and rehabilitating their production lines. The number of federations and councils supporting the industrial sector remained stable, with 7 of them. Their role was very important in supporting the solidarity of the industrial fabric and in withstanding and mitigating the negative impact of the war. Their number is expected to increase in the future.

Target (79): To support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, by ensuring a conducive policy environment for inter alia industrial diversification and value addition to commodities.

Despite the war, the Syrian Arab Republic has witnessed a remarkable development in broadband penetration (fixed and movable) and capacity. The fixed broadband penetration rate has risen from (1 per a hundred people) in 2012 to (2.9 per a hundred people). The package capacity used in international connectivity per user increased (kbit / sec) reaching (16.9 kbit/sec) in 2015.

Target (80): To achieve a significantly increased access to information and communication technology and striving to provide universal and affordable access to the internet in the least developed countries by 2020.

The Syrian Arab Republic stresses the importance of international support for the least developed countries, as well as all developing countries, to ensure universal and affordable access to the internet.

Goal 10: By 2030 reduce inequality within and among countries.

Target (81): By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average.

In order to achieve the goals of sustainable development and promote the social equity aspect of the development process, the redistribution of income in the interest of the poor, low and low income groups, which constitute at least 40% of the population, becomes a top priority. In addition to providing in-kind assistance and implementing social support and empowerment programs, the Syrian government is trying to reduce unemployment rates, increase the share of wages and salaries in Gross Domestic Product and adopt policies that promote tax/fiscal justice and the equitable distribution of income. Target indicators were covered under other goals: especially 1, 2 and 8.

Target (82): By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

The percentage of young people, of the total population, decreased to reach 30.6%, in 2015 compared to 31.2%, in 2010 due to emigration, and it continued to decline during the war years as a result of worsening war conditions and repercussions. The percentage of young people over the age of 18 participating in political parties increased from 34%, in 2010 to 54%, in 2012 due to the issuance of the Party Licensing Law No. 100 of 2012. Despite the fact that this percentage decreased to 14%, in 2015, the absolute number of youth participation in parties did not decrease, but increased as the number of parties increased to 21 parties thus increasing the number of their members. The percentage of young workers was about 19.1%, in 2010. However this percentage dropped to 9.4%, in 2014 due to war-related reasons and as a result of the severe damage to the industrial, tourism and agricultural sectors and the loss of job opportunities thereof.

Many of the indicators reviewed in the main body of Goal 5 confirm that Syrian women have gained many of their rights over the past few decades. It should be noted that the shortcomings in the empowerment of Syrian women fall into three categories. The first category is related to the legislation, regulations and laws in force; while the second has to do with the biological/physiological nature of women and the social weight and family and household burdens imposed on them. The third category comprises outdated cultural, ideological, social and religious traditions and that place women in an inferior position to men.

Target (83): Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

Equality and equity of opportunity requires three conditions: first, practicing non-discrimination among citizens; second, creating employment; and third, enabling individuals, without discrimination, to benefit from the availability of opportunities. These aspects have been taken into account in the Syrian Constitution 2012: Article 33 stipulates that «No discrimination shall be made on grounds of sex, origin, language, religion or creed.» The provisions of the Unified Labor Law confirm the provisions of the Constitution concerning equality and equity of opportunity between men and women. Article 130 stipulates that, “without prejudice to the following articles,” “...all provisions regulating the employment of workers shall apply to women workers without discrimination.” Articles 131-132-139 take into consideration the characteristics and social conditions of women; therefore, they forbid the employment of women at night except by a decision of the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor. Aforementioned articles also forbid the employment of women in work that is harmful whether physically or morally and stipulate against employing women in hard labor.

Target (84): Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.

Legislation in the Syrian Arab Republic does not discriminate between men and women with regard to the right of access to the apparatus of social protection from social safety networks to the right to decent work, including equitable remuneration, working conditions and social services.

The per capita expenditure of the government increased from Syrian Pound 36,568, in 2010 to 62,384 SYP, in 2013, a positive growth rate of around 70%, although it declined slightly due to the repercussions of the war, 61,201 SYP, in 2014. Keeping in mind that this increase is not entirely true due to the worsening of general inflation during the period under study, the tariff of government services did not rise as high as the general inflation which rose from 36.3 %, in 2012 to 80.6%, in 2013, due to poor production and increased imports of essential needs, as well as the high exchange rate of foreign currency, and the devaluation of national currency.

The general trend of per capita tax revenues decreased from 9,851 SYP in 2010 to 8,032 SYP, in 2011, and this rate continued to decline in 2013 to only 3,230 SYP, with a negative growth rate that amounted to about 66%. This was due to the contraction of the size of the Syrian economy and the slow pace of work and performance of economic activities at that stage, in addition to increasing rates of tax evasion and the need to activate the mechanisms of tax collection. However, this number subsequently rose to 10,185 SYP in many geographical areas due to the government exempting tax payers from late-payment penalties, which encouraged some to pay their taxes.

Target (85): Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations.

Law No.22, 2005 was issued to establish the Syrian Commission on Financial Markets and Securities. This was amended by Legislative Decree No. 50, 2009 and Law No. 55, 2006 concerning the establishment of Damascus

Securities Exchange. The objective of the commission is to regulate and develop the work of financial and service companies and institutions, including securities markets, and protect the rights of shareholders and investors in securities. It also provides a major source of financing large projects, needed during the reconstruction phase. It should be noted that the number of shareholding companies supervised by the Syrian Commission on Financial Markets and Securities amounted to 53 companies, distributed among the sectors of banking, insurance, agriculture, brokerage and financial services, industry and telecommunications. Twenty four companies are listed on the Damascus Securities Exchange; these being among the fifty three companies supervised by the Commission.

Target (86): Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions.

The Syrian Arab Republic is a developing country with close relations to international economic and financial organizations and institutions. This close connection was adversely affected only during the current war, and purely for political reasons. Prior to the war, the Syrian Arab Republic has signed numerous bilateral and multilateral agreements with Arab and international parties. It has also become a member of several regional, Arab and international financial institutions, including the World Bank Group, which includes the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), in addition to other institutions and organizations such as the International Monetary Fund, the Arab Monetary Fund, the Union of Arab Banks and the Arab Investment Company.

Here it is important to point out the pressures endured and losses incurred to developing countries, including the Syrian Arab Republic, because of some countries, for purely political reasons, to deliberately impede representation of developing countries and governing of international economic institutions, such as the World Trade Organization, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and thus deprive them of any possibility of enjoying the advantages of joining these institutions.

Target (87): Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

The terrorist war against the Syrian Arab Republic resulted in a movement of internal displacement that changed the proportion of some governorates' population in relation to the total population of the country. This was compounded by external emigration. Leading to an imbalance in the demographic composition of the population, especially the labor force which is one of the elements of production, and a huge change in the lives of young people in terms of its size and impact on society, the economy and the labor market.

The number of legal emigrants from various Syrian regions outside the Syrian Arab Republic reached 415,849, in 2011, and the number increased annually to reach 829,364, in 2015. Thus, the number of emigrants outside the Syrian Arab Republic since the beginning of the war until the end of 2015 totaled around 407,809 people. The

increase in legal and illegal emigration between 2012 and 2014 was due to the instability in many Syrian areas which have witnessed a cessation of economic activities. Later, this trend started to slow down.

Target (88): Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements.

The Syrian Arab Republic has signed several agreements with the aim of facilitating and encouraging foreign trade with the target countries, some of which will be outlined within the framework of indicators referred to later. Among the most important Arab agreements in the area of the facilitation and promotion of trade is the Greater Arab Free Trade Area Agreement. The declaration of the Free Trade Area within the framework of the Economic and Social Council of the League of Arab States was based on the Council's resolution 1317-O.S.-59, 19 February, 1997 as an executive program to activate the Agreement on the Development and Facilitation of Trade Exchange signed in 1981. The Executive Program was launched on the 1st of January 1998 as a step in the efforts to establish a common Arab market by exempting imports from Arab countries of goods of Arab origin from customs duties and taxes of similar effect gradually on an annual rate of 10%, so that the Arab goods exchanged among the member states are exempted by 100% within 10 years, i.e., on 1/1/2007.

It was agreed to accelerate the full liberalization of trade in goods within the region on 1 January 2005, two years ahead of schedule. The Syrian Arab Republic benefited from these trade advantages in both directions: exports to the Arab States increased as well imports from, especially of raw materials for industry. Some shortcomings in the application of the agreement need to be addressed: such as the issue of validation of origin. Although this agreement is still in force, some technical and administrative restrictions have been imposed by some countries, for non-commercial reasons, in addition to the restrictions imposed on Syrian exports since the beginning of the war.

Here, it is noted that the United States of America continues to impede the accession of the Syrian Arab Republic to the World Trade Organization, which has led to a major loss of opportunities for Syrian exports to get the preferential benefits of membership in this Organization.

Target (89): Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small-island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programs.

Unlike other countries that are developmentally similar and are in the same rank internationally, Syria's total funding and investment capital do not rely on external sources and/or external technical cooperation. The latter constitute only a small part of funding. Besides, the share of the Syrian Arab Republic in the budgets of international cooperation of donors is relatively limited compared to other countries. In general, the Syrian Arab Republic has

ratified the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, 2005 and the Accra Agenda for Action AAA, 2008 that stipulate the adoption of the five basic principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, management for results and mutual accountability. The overarching aim is to increase effectiveness and efficiency in delivering aid and improving its end results.

The number of concessional/easy foreign loans from countries totaled 11 loans, in 2010, which gradually decreased during the war to reach only two loans, in 2014; and to stop altogether in 2015 when there were no loans in force. During the war years, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran signed a direct credit line, which remains in force up to date.

Since the beginning of the war, most foreign grants--except for the United Nations grant in 2014--particularly the European ones have been suspended, including the suspension of all loans, grants, donations and provision of experts provided by the European Union.

Via the country offices in Damascus of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) donated \$ 18 million grant for the rehabilitation of power plants, in 2014 and the grant was increased in the following years to reach US \$ 34 million. This grant has contributed significantly to enhancing the supply of electricity to Syrian citizens and improving the efficiency and the responsiveness of the production and service sectors to the needs of Syrian citizens.

The Syrian Arab Republic has received, during the years of the war, several grants from the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, People's Republic of China, Japan, Norway and other countries that are friends of Syria. These grants played a major role in supporting national plans to provide for the needs of Syrian citizens for food, health services, water, sanitation and electricity, education and shelter.

Foreign investment accounted for 21.8% of the total investments in the Syrian Arab Republic, in 2010. However, during 2011 and 2012, this ratio declined to zero in 2012. This was accompanied by a decrease in the number of investments in general. During the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 foreign investments fluctuated to account for 23.5% of the total investments, which in turn were quite low, about 4.2 billion SYP, in 2013. In 2014 it reached 0.4% and in 2015 it increased to 16.4%. Total investment remained regressed throughout.

Target (90): By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.

The remittances of expatriates and Syrian workers abroad are important sources of foreign exchange that feed the Syrian market. They are carried out officially through the Central Bank of Syria, on whose behalf the local exchange companies operate, or non-officially via exchange agents operating on the black market. In addition to the high costs of transferring/wiring remittances, the process of transfer itself, including trade transaction payments, began to suffer from new obstacles and difficulties due to the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed against the Syrian Arab Republic during the war. Irregular routs and indirect methods of transfer are sometimes resorted to such as via a third party, a process which takes longer, incurs more costs and burdens on the beneficiaries and increases the risk of the transfers falling through altogether.

Goal 11: Make the cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable by 2030.

Target (91): By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.

The average cost of a square meter of apartment block has multiplied four times due to the increase in the cost of construction materials, transportation charges and workers' wages, and the shortage of personnel because of the war. This cost has risen from (13870 SYP./ m2) in 2010 to (55241 SYP./m2) in 2015. The impact of war is not limited to the increase of housing cost, but houses of citizens, servicing facilities, and Syrian infrastructure have been vastly damaged after being targeted by the terrorist armed groups and the "International Coalition" and affiliated militias.

Target (92): Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all.

The kilometre lengths of roads have been relatively stable during the war at around (8102 km). However, the main problem is that some parts of the local and central road network have been damaged and vandalised due to the war. With the increasing stability in the areas that went through acts of vandalism, the focus now is to maintain and rehabilitate affected roads, being a basic infrastructure for recovery of normal life there.

Nevertheless, the number of operating buses on the roads has seen a dramatic decline during the war from 940 to 603 buses only: while many of which have been sabotaged because of the disorderly circumstances then, others fell out of service due to wear and tear and depreciation,. In addition to this, there is a real difficulty in providing maintenance and upgrading requirements and spare parts due to the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic.

Target (93): By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.

During the years of war, urban master plans for a number and areas with various topography have declined. The total number of new plans have decreased from 189 to 23 urban plans between 2010 and 2015. The total areas of these plans have declined from 19000 to 850 hectares in the same period.

Target (94): Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

The cultural and historical heritage of the Syrian Arab Republic has been sabotaged in various ways, and its contents and assets have been robbed by the terrorist armed groups. Syrian antiquities have been looted and systematically destroyed, and a large part has been smuggled abroad especially through Turkey. Here, the Syrian Arab Republic emphasises the urgent need for State Members of the United Nations to fulfil their commitments according to resolutions of Security Council, the General Assembly and UNESCO, especially their commitments to return cultural properties that were plundered from the Syrian Arab Republic to the Syrian State.

Natural oil resources have been subject to acts of aggression through theft of equipment and oil products (the indicator is covered in Goal 16). Syrian forests were subject to arson and vandalism in areas where the terrorist armed groups spread, especially some parts of the forests in the Governorate of Lattakia that was attacked by terrorists through arson and excessive logging (this indicator is covered in Goals 12-15 that are related to environmental goals). Forests in the Governorate of Qunaitra have been subject to destruction and losses as a result of operations by the terrorist armed groups that were wreaking havoc there, supported by the occupation power of "Israel".

Target (95): By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

There is no direct data concerning the number of deaths that resulted from water quality related disasters. The effect of disasters over agricultural production has been covered in Goal 2.

Target (96): By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.

Levels of water pollution have decreased significantly because of war conditions, but this decrease did not result from an environmental improvement, rather, it was mainly a result of the inability to measure pollution in unstable areas because of the war, and the vandalism of water installations and equipment used to measure pollution. Consequently, it was possible to provide accurate data and information. This situation was accompanied by the inadequate support to this sector from the United Nations agencies.

A slight development is observed in the number of solid waste treatment facilities, from 2 in 2010 to 14 in 2015. Planned projects have not implemented as adopted in the guiding plan for solid waste treatment because of current circumstances and because some of them were designated in unstable areas. Similarly, the number of facilities

designated for hazardous medical waste treatment remained unchanged, with two facilities between 2010 and 2015. The reason for this is the consequences of the war which led to shifting of priorities, giving more focus on providing the urgent and necessary medical services for citizens.

Target (97): By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Areas with green spaces have increased by about 3.5% between 2010 and 2014, due to the decline of urban plans development, and despite vandalism in forests and parks. This increase led to growth in the per capita green area from 0.027 hectare in 2010 to 0.028 in 2014.

Target (98): Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.

Development in the Syrian Arab Republic has followed a national and local planning approach, with almost a total absence of regional planning approaches that should link macro national plans with the local ones. However, given the important role of regional planning in supporting development links in its different levels and components, the Syrian Government has adopted the national framework of regional planning, but, the war has unfortunately impeded the implementation of its basic components.

Target (99): By 2030, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Desertification has risen from 59% to 74.6% between 2010 and 2014, mostly due to the inability to put in place and implement an integrated management of disasters, climate change and soil pollution by oil and its products during the war as a result of arbitrary refining of petroleum.

Target (100): Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials.

Syrian Arab Republic stresses the need for developed countries to provide the support and financing needed to implement the content of this important target to develop the least developed and developing countries.

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns by 2030.

Target (101): Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, taking into account the development of developing countries.

In order to improve social, and economic and living conditions in the rural areas, The government endorsed the project of rural development, so rural groups have been established to ensure sustainability of resources, such as groups working on managing and rationing water use in irrigation, on supporting agricultural extension services, on providing job opportunities and on income-generating projects. However, this requires expansion of the integrated rural development process to include all Syrian rural areas.

Eight developmental projects with foreign funding were implemented in rural areas in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform between 2010 and 2011, but the number of projects declined between 2012 and 2015 because of the circumstances of the war, particularly in unstable areas. However, it is expected that the number will rise again to 14 projects by 2030 with the return of stability to most rural areas after the Syrian state's liberation of all areas from terrorism, and given the policies the Syrian state adopts with rural development as top priority.

Target (102): Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

The efficiency of using irrigation water in agriculture between 2010-2015 reached 80-90% for drip irrigation, 70-80% for sprinkle irrigation, and 60-65% for flooding surface irrigation with laser land levelling. It is necessary to coordinate between policies of sectoral ministries to achieve optimal use of the limited water resources, to develop the use of technology in the agricultural sector, especially in irrigation methods, to replace and upgrade drinking water systems, reducing transgressions on drinking water resources, and to conduct a vertical and horizontal network expansion through constructing dams and digging wells in areas with renewable water resources. International support is greatly needed for this sector to improve the efficiency of water use and transfer of technologies. However, the water resources sector has not received any actual international support during the past years, despite the dependence of a large number of Syrian households on agriculture for their livelihoods.

The areas depending on modern irrigation decreased by 7% between 2010 and 2015 from 298 thousand hectares in 2010 to 278 thousand hectares in 2015. Many irrigation and land reclamation projects are expected to be implemented to increase the areas depending on modern irrigation to around 298 thousand hectares in 2020, to 318 hectares in 2025, and to 328 thousand hectares in 2030.

Target (103): Halve per capita global food waste, and reduce food losses along production and supply chains.

There is no available data about food waste, and production losses have been covered in Target1 that is concerned with food security.

Target (104): By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle.

Integrated chemicals and wastes treatment centres have been subject to sabotage and vandalism by the terrorist armed groups, and the implementation of some of these centres has been delayed. In 2015, there were 5 such centres, and this number is expected to increase to 14. As for intermediary waste transfer stations, there were 110 in 2015, expected to rise to 120 by 2020. The number of sanitation waste landfills has increased to 40 in 2015, and it is expected to rise to 44 by 2020. The number of hazardous waste treatment and disposal facilities/ landfills was 3 each, and it is planned to increase to 14 by 2020.

Target (105): By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

Damages resulting from terrorist attacks and operations of «international coalition» amounted to 22379 thousand public buildings that were completely damaged, and more than 27 thousand cars belonging to governmental bodies that were damaged or stolen. By the end of September 2014, the entire direct physical damages in buildings and infrastructure is estimated at 2445 billion SYP, and the indirect damages at 14574 billion SYP. In view of these figures of extensive damage, it is significant to focus on implementing the national strategy of debris and solid waste management in affected areas. This focus requires international support in financing and transfer of used technology and capacity building.

During the past years, hazardous waste has not been treated because of the lack of screening and sorting procedures in the source; and with the absence of control on imports before the war, there had been an increase in the amount of hazardous waste resulting such from imported materials as batteries, medicine, pesticides, and other substances. The Ministry of Local Administration and Environment has established and implemented 14 temporary dumping landfills to dispose of hazardous waste in different governorates, 3 of them have been implemented, 20 more are still expected to be implemented by 2030.

Target (106): Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.

The Syrian government has worked on disseminating concepts of environmental management systems and cleaner production through establishing the National Centre for Cleaner Production and Environmental Management systems that seeks to encourage industrialists to depend on environmental management systems and good practices

for cleaner production. To achieve this target, it is essential to encourage companies and industrialists to adopt environmentally good practices, while granting more exemptions and advantages to encourage conformity to quality control standards, innovation and entrepreneurship to promote competitiveness. In addition to this, industrial companies are obliged to offer independent sustainability reports, to encourage small and medium companies to integrate the sustainability principle in their commercial strategies and achieve a competitive advantage and a reputable trademark, and thus participate in public procurement with more transparent practices.

Target (107): Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.

There is no data that measure the amounts or trends of public procurement that fulfil sustainability.

Target (108): Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

Despite the issuing of Legislative Decree no. 12 of 2012 on organic agriculture, there was a decrease in the joint awareness-raising extension work in the domain of organic agriculture in targeted areas, concurrent with a decrease in supporting and developing farmers' organic schools. There were 16 organic schools in 2015, expected to increase to 56 schools by 2020, and to 70 by 2025, and to 84 by 2030.

Despite the increase in the area of lands with conservation agriculture in 2015 in comparison to 2010, the target of 20000 hectares of conservation agriculture by 2015 was not met because of the current circumstances and the inability to provide production inputs.

By 2010, there were 504 pastoralist cooperative associations by 2010, and 93 secondary sheep fattening cooperative associations. However, and because of war conditions, no new pastoralist and fattening associations were established during the period between 2010 and 2015. By 2030, 600 pastoralist cooperative associations and 125 sheep fattening cooperative associations are expected be rehabilitated.

Target (109): Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

The Syrian Arab Republic faces the challenge of the unilateral economic coercive measures on production inputs, especially the technological ones. To achieve this target, the international community should provide more support to the Syrian Arab Republic to face the impacts of these measures, and to support national plans in order to establish sustainable consumption and production systems, especially through enabling them to access modern production means which helps raise the productivity and preserve the sustainability of resources.

Target (110): Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism.

In 2013, the government started work on the classification of different sites as environmental tourism sites, according to specific conditions. It was expected that by 2015, there would be about 300 sites of environmental tourism in different ecosystems. However, the current circumstances have made it difficult to achieve that. There are only 188 declared sites due to the fact that investors did not conform to the conditions set for preserving the environment. Added to that is the shortage of service facilities and required infrastructure in these sites that is appropriate to the ecosystem there. It is expected that by 2020, there will be 300 sites, with an increase to 400 by 2030.

Target (111): Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies in accordance with national circumstances, and minimizing the possible adverse impacts of its development.

Decree no. 3 of 2009 was issued to support social and economic development, preserve the fossil-fuel reserves, and protect the environment. Despite that, additional governmental policies and interventions still need to be implemented.

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Target (112): Strengthen resilience capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

Consumption of all petroleum products decreased in 2015 compared to that in 2010, as a result of terrorist war against Syrian Arab Republic, and the continuation of imposed unilateral coercive economic measures, along with the decline in oil productivity and the partial of suspension of petroleum products governmental subsidies. The consumption of diesel decreased by 78.3%, and that of fuel by 67.3% in 2015 compared to that in 2010. The amount of aviation kerosene consumed in the country is still very low compared to its consumption in countries with heavy aviation activity. However, this indicator is expected to rise in the near future with the gradual return to normal of economic and social life, and the recovery of activities of industrial cities. In parallel, however, there will be more work on implementing promising alternative energy options such as solar and wind energy.

Target (113): Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.

The Syrian Arab Republic participated in most international climate change conferences and meetings. It was one of the first signatories to the international conventions, the last of which was the accession to Paris Agreement by law no. 31, dated 26/10/2017. It has become a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1995, and ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2005. The Syrian State has worked on applying and integrating these conventions in the national legislations and measures that contribute to reduce the impact of climate change impacts. However, the war has restrained the enforcement of these legislations and measures. In 2014, a project matrix was designed to improve the quality of air and the ecosystems. Many wind farms have been constructed, and many projects have been implemented to generate electricity using photovoltaic antennas. In the same line, 100 thousand solar heaters for homes have been installed which reduced the amount of emission. Furthermore, petroleum products have been obtained in accordance with international standards.

Target (114): Improve human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

According to the first National Climate Change communication, the amount of greenhouse gases emissions CO₂/equivalent in 2005 from all sectors amounted to 79 million tons. There has been no amounts recalculation after the first report due to lack of international support to the Syrian Arab Republic to prepare the second climate change national report. However, the amount of CO₂eq resulting from the consumption of petroleum products in the period 2010-2015 was calculated, and it recorded a decrease from 45.701 in 2010, to 12.710, in 2015, i.e. a drop by 70.2% as a result of the cuts in the amount of consumed petrol products during the years of war.

Target (115): Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020.

Syrian Arab Republic ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on 3/4/1996 as a party not included by Annex 1. The Syrian Arab Republic has no commitments regarding amounts of greenhouse gas emissions that need to be reduced. However, it is obliged under article 12 of the Convention to prepare national communication for the conference of the contracting parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It is also obliged to raise awareness on climate change issues, increase national consensus to combat climate change, in addition to providing the international community with information in a form of an inventory of the directions of sources and disposal pathways of greenhouse gases. No financing has been offered yet to any national project by the Framework Convention on Climate Change, or by the Green Climate Fund, while funding has been given to a project to prepare the first national communication of the Syrian Arab Republic, and the adaptation in 2006 by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Syrian Arab Republic has joined and ratified many of the regional and international conventions that are concerned with sustainable development and environment protection. It has lately submitted the document of contributions defined nationally within the framework of the Paris Convention. This document has been prepared through concerted national efforts, and with contributions from all concerned institutions, relevant local administrations, representative of civil society and academics. The document identifies the national activities and plans required to adapt with climate change impacts and reduce the emission over the short-term, while stressing that implementing these contributions in the optimal manner requires sufficient financial and technical support predicted by international funds that work in the framework of international environmental conventions.

Target (116): Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in developing countries.

Work is underway on redrafting the national strategy and plan of the adaptation to climate change in accordance with the developments in the Syrian Arab Republic and the international requirements in this domain. The environmental dimension will be integrated in the policies and plans of the reconstruction phase. In addition to this, efforts will be focused on developing environmental monitoring work and inspection, rehabilitating affected laboratories and monitoring stations, training environmental inspectors, and activating the supervisory body over industrial activities which might have adverse impact on the environment.

Goal 14: Conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Target (117): To prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds by 2025.

No data is available on marine pollution rates, nor has the Syrian Arab Republic received any technical support from relevant international organizations to measure marine pollution rates. It has to be noted in this context that significant losses on the Syrian marine environment since 2006 as a result of the oil spill caused by the Israeli aggression on Lebanon (in the summer of 2006). Despite the magnitude of these losses, United Nations organizations and the World Bank have not provided any support to the Syrian Arab Republic in this context, particularly for the assessment of the extent of direct and indirect losses from the leak.

The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms the necessity of an immediate implementation of the relevant UN resolutions in which request "Israel", the occupying Power, to resume its responsibilities for repairing the environmental damage, including the restoration of the Syrian marine environment, as a result to the massive destruction by the Israeli Air Force in 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Jiyah electric power plant in Lebanon, resulting in an oil slick covered the entirety of the Lebanese coastline, extended to the Syrian coastline and hindered efforts to achieve sustainable development.

Target (118): Management of marine and coastal ecosystems, for the health and productivity of oceans by the year 2020.

With the migration of a large part of the population from inland areas to coastal areas in recent years due to the current conditions in the Syrian Arab Republic, the percentage of the population living in the coastal areas has increased. The increase is expected to continue from 3.8% in 2015 to 6% 2020, due to the current conditions and displacement to coastal areas, that have a moderate weather.

Target (119): To minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification.

Target (120): To effectively regulate fishing and implement science-based management plans to restore fish stocks to levels that enable the production of maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics by 2020.

The share of fishery revenues contributing to the total agricultural output decreased from 0.0002% in 2010 to 0.00004% in 2015, due to the decline in fish stocks and overfishing, the absence of regulated markets for fish sales, the increase in negative practices affecting the coastal and marine environment and biodiversity and the lack of knowledge of the biological cycle of fish species. Therefore, it is necessary to pursue governmental interventions and the necessary international support for this sector. The amount of fish caught dropped from 12770 tons in 2010

to 2925 tons in 2015, due to the low availability of fish species, overfishing and inability to fish in some areas. It is necessary to elicit the required governmental interventions to reduce the negative effects of inappropriate practices.

Target (121): To save at least 10% of coastal and marine areas by the year 2020.

The number of people dependent on marine resources has increased from 1335 in 2013 to 2225 by 2015, leading to increased pressure on marine life and the abuse of the fishing profession by people who have no knowledge of marine biodiversity and its elements. This is due to the increasing migration of people from unstable to more stable areas, and the need for employment opportunities, especially with the fishing profession requiring limited costs and capital. The number is expected to increase to 7000 by the year 2020.

The war has also caused extensive damage to Ras Ibn Hanai coastal marine Reserve that extends over 2.3 kms long and 1.5 kms depth, with an area of 3.45 square kms, thus destroying the bio-diverse habitat on the shore there. Three protected natural reserves will reach three, with a total area of more than 10 km², but it is necessary to ensure that the necessary needs are available (for example, diving and marine biologists, diving equipment and tools, cameras, etc.).

The number of threatened species in the coastal and marine areas increased to 20 in 2015, while in 2010 there were about 14 species only. Although coastal and marine areas are known for richness and biodiversity, they are exposed to the effects of climate change, harmful human activities (fires, random collection of medicinal and aromatic plants, fishing by dynamite, etc.) which have led to an increasing number of endangered species. The number of endangered species is expected to increase to 35 kinds by 2020.

Target (122): Prohibition of subsidies to excessive fishing and illegal fishing by 2020.

No official support for fisheries is provided in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Target (123): To increase the economic benefits to the least developed countries of the sustainable use of marine resources.

Target (124): To increase scientific knowledge, transfer of marine technology, and enhance the role of marine diversity in the development of developing countries.

In the Syrian Arab Republic, there is the General Establishment for Marine Training and Rehabilitation, and the General Directorate of Syrian Ports, which provide certificates of competence and of eligibility. There are also special centers such as the Arab Academy for Marine Sciences in Lattakia, which offer certificates in the maritime domain. However, in the absence of funding and due to the circumstances of the war, there was a significant negative impact on capacity building and keeping up with scientific developments. During the years 2010 to 2015, no specialized training courses seem to have conducted. There will be a greater need for capacities during the coming phase, thus for rehabilitation and training after the loss of competent and expert human resources.

Target (125): To provide small-scale artisanal fishers' access to marine resources and markets.

This indicator under this target reflects the current number of fishing boats whether in the sea or in fresh water surfaces, used for fish and other marine organisms. In fact, this index has not changed either for the marine boats that has maintained the same level of fishing activity, or for the river boats that have remained at their very low level, due to the presence of lakes and rivers in unstable areas, low fish stocks and the amount of fish caught. However, plans to organize the fishing profession and establish a fishermen union, in addition to new measures meant to grant licenses for workers in this sector, estimated at 500 persons, to buy fishing boats, it is expected that the number of fishing boats will increase.

Target (126): To promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources by implementing international law "Law of the Sea".

Goal 15: By 2030, protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Target (127): By 2020, ensure the conservation and restoration of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services.

The war had a great impact on the amount of fish caught in the past period. This amount dropped considerably, from /2436/ tons in 2010 to /92.3/ ton in 2015. This is attributed to the fact that the lakes are located in unstable areas, where fishing became impossible, and to the decrease of fish stocks in inland freshwater surfaces due to excessive and random fishing. This value of this indicator is expected to improve because of the return of stability to areas of main lakes, especially Lake Assad, with 2500 tons of fish expected to be netted by 2020.

In 2010, the number of threatened species in freshwater was 32, while in 2015, it was 35, with a gap of about 9%. This is attributed to the decrease in fish stocks due to excessive and random fishing. The number of threatened species is expected to decrease because of governmental policies and return of stability.

Target (128): By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests and halt deforestation.

The contribution rate of forestry sector in the gross product of the agriculture sector decreased from (0.0015%) in 2010 to (0.0005%) in 2015. This is attributed to more forest fires and burning. During this stage, there were about 1880 fires, in addition to extensive logging and charring, and an increase in pollution and overgrazing. The contribution of forestry sector in the gross product of the agriculture sector of the GDP is expected to rise to (0.0008%) in 2020 amid the strict enforcement of national laws against illegal logging.

Natural and artificial forests areas expanded—though slightly—in the period between 2010 and 2015, especially with the reforestation of burned areas and of new ones by virtue of the plans of the Ministry of Agriculture. Forestry nurseries in different governorates have also been established, especially those with natural forests, accompanied by strict enforcement of forestry laws, and the return of stability to a large part of areas where natural and artificial forests spread. However, the process of forests restoration and planting new trees may take longer. Thus, this indicator is not expected to improve more than 538 thousand hectares, as it was prior to the war, and this includes natural and artificial forests and natural reserves.

In 2010, the number of cooperative pastures reserves (number of cooperative pastures associations coordinating in their rangelands development project) was /136/. This number did not change in 2015 because of the end of the project. The improved pastures in those reserves increased by 3% due to the improvement of small pasture spaces between 2011 and 2012. Cooperative pasture reserves/coordinating pastures associations are expected to reach 150 in 2020, with an increase of 10% of the improved pasture spaces in those reserves.

Target (129): Combat desertification, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

Arable land surface represents about 8.5 million hectares, 6.6 million of which, i.e. around 77%, are cultivated. The remaining area cannot be cultivated currently unless the right conditions and adequate water become available. However, it is clear from a study of land uses between 2010 and 2015 that the degradation during the war was in the quality of these resources rather than in the area of the arable land surface. The area of arable surfaces increased by 0.6% due to the government intervention in cultivating new areas and integrating them in the production plans, and providing production inputs. More so as the government sought during war to focus on extending the cultivated spaces and planting priority crops, such as legumes and crops demanded by factories such as cotton and tobacco. The area of meadows and rangelands, however, decreased by 0.32% because of desert farming and overgrazing, as they are being to plant some crops such as wheat and barley. This is mostly because of the absence of management and protection of natural and improved pasture land surfaces, the uprooting of shrubs for the purposes of heating and cooking, and opening informal roads.

The amount of mineral fertilisers (N P K) used in agricultural production dropped in the last years, 2014 and 2015, in comparison to that in 2010. The decline rate was about 91% in 2015, because of the circumstances that hinder access and use of fertilisers in the production process, disrupt supplies of production inputs, and put the cost at higher prices. Moreover, the successive seasons of droughts had an adverse impact on available water capacity, not to mention the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic that hindered the provision of fertilisers needed for the Syrian agricultural production that ensure food security for the Syrians.

The spaces of lands with conservation agriculture increased significantly in 2015 in comparison to previous years, by virtue of the government's plans to develop and expand them. More attention by the government will be given in the coming phase to expand these areas to cover more than 50000 hectares.

Target (130): By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity.

Data show an increase in the terrestrial/wild faunas that are continuously hunted all year round, with no consideration to seasons of mating and migration, an increase in hunting and overgrazing of annual and perennial plants, and an increase in forest fires that cause destruction of most animal habitats and grazing animals. This indicator is expected to worsen until 2020, with an increase in the number of threatened floras from 143 to 250, and threatened faunas from 79 to 120. Thus, governmental policies and interventions face a serious challenge with the absence of international support needed to preserve biosafety. Present developmental pastures projects led to the reappearance and reproduction of a lot of good grazing animal breeds as a result of organised investment of improved rangelands, especially with the existence of about /45/ grazing animal with fodder value between good and high in 2010. This indicator has not changed from 2010 to 2015, but it is expected to rise considerably in the coming stage with the rising need for animal feed, and due to following expected new activities: planting half a million pasture seedlings in the desert, production of about 650 thousand fresh seedlings to rehabilitate degraded spaces, localizing extinct

and threatened floras through establishing 9 environmental reserves, 13 pasture nurseries, 10 centres of pasture seed-multiplication, and genetic resources banks, and, finally, revegetating and developing ecotourism and protecting the cultural heritage of the Syrian desert.

Target (131): Take urgent and significant action to halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect threatened species.

This indicator refers to the faunas and floras that disappeared from different ecosystems. Data shows an increase in these species throughout the period under study, and this is attributed to weak enforcement of hunting laws, which led to losing some wild species that are continuously hunted all year round, with no consideration to mating and migration seasons, in addition to overgrazing of annual and perennial plants, forest fires and destruction of animal habitats and habitats of grazing animals' species within the forests. Due to wrong practices during the years preceding the war, this indicator is expected to rise from 35 threatened species in 2015 to 50 in 2020, and this requires the implementation of governmental policies and interventions to reduce the reverse impact on biodiversity. Due to the degradation of desert rangelands and the Syrian State's concern to protect the desert and preserve its natural resources, there have been more laws and decrees issued for the purpose of saving wildlife, amounting to 6 laws and 14 decrees. The value of the indicator is expected to rise in the coming phase during reconstruction and with implementation of governmental policies and interventions.

Target (132): Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources.

Improved rangelands are utilized according to spring-autumn grazing contracts for right-holders in cooperative pastures associations. There were 41359 beneficiaries of grazing contracts in rangelands between 2002 and 2010, to increase to 44125 in 2011. Because of the war, improved rangelands were not monitored due to their inaccessibility in some areas where terrorist armed groups spread. However, a considerable increase in the value of this indicator is expected in the coming stage, to exceed 80000 beneficiaries in light of the return of stability to the Syrian desert and governmental policies and interventions.

Target (133): Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species.

A book titled «Birds in Syria» (a field guide) refers to the existence of 394 bird species, including migratory, transient, non-migratory, and visitor birds in summer or winter, in addition to straying species or those forced to change their migration destination to the Syrian Arab Republic because of climate change. In the past years, new species were registered in the national "fauna". The number of locally and internationally threatened birds that come to the Syrian Arab Republic is 17, according to the Bird Life International and the CITES annexes about trade in threatened species. The number of bird hunters in the Syrian Arab Republic officially exceeded 150 thousand during the past years.

Target (134): By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.

Actions and measures to prevent alien species on ecosystems are still unsatisfactory; they stopped completely during the war because of instability in many Syrian areas, especially in border regions and the riverbeds of Euphrates and Tigris.

Target (135): By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning.

In the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties of Biodiversity convention between 18-29 October, 2010 in Nagoya (Aichi, Japan), the revised and updated strategic plan of biodiversity has been developed, and it includes the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, 2011-2020. This plan describes an inclusive framework for biodiversity management. On the national level, work will be conducted to develop "the national biodiversity strategy" in light of national priorities, and in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals, which include 20 main goals for 2015 to 2020. The Syrian Arab Republic needs until after 2020 to implement this strategy because of the war conditions and impacts. Moreover, work will be conducted to launch sensitisation campaigns about the importance of biodiversity and national bio-systems, and to encourage the private sector and relevant associations to support and initiate them, and to integrate biodiversity in school curricula and support coordination with regional educational organisations.

Target (136): Mobilize financial resources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.

To achieve this target, work will be conducted at the national level. Actions will be taken to reflect the national commitments defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity in different plans, programmes, projects, the Public Budget of the Syrian State, budgets of the sectors, reporting systems, and governmental and non-governmental reports. It is expected that part of the tax contributing to sustainable development, which was defined by Tax Law no.24 (2004), will be specified for projects to preserve biodiversity and ecosystems.

Target (137): Mobilize significant resources to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management.

This target reflects the necessity to provide support for developing countries to improve their forest management efficiency. Efforts of the Syrian Arab Republic in this field are tackled in target (128).

Target (138): Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species.

The Syrian Arab Republic ratified many international conventions concerned with hunting, most prominently: The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Aquabird / African-Eurasian Aquabird Agreement (AEWA), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), The Ramsar and the Barcelona conventions.

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

The Syrian Arab Republic agrees with the fact that there is a strong link between peace and development and that peace at the international level is a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development with its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – and at the national, regional and international levels. At the same time, however, the Syrian Arab Republic stresses the need to consider this sensitive issue in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, so that the above-mentioned close link between achieving sustainable development and peace, as stressed by this goal, should not by any means be a factor to confusing the mandates of the main organs of the United Nations. Therefore, the Security Council remains exclusively responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, while the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council are responsible for development issues and the implementation of the global sustainable development agenda.

Prior to 2011, the Syrian Arab Republic witnessed decades of stability, security and unprecedented levels of development. However, it did not enjoy peace at the regional level during these decades as a result of the continued Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and Israel's, the occupation power's refusal to implement the provisions of the relevant United Nations resolutions.

After 2011, the Syrian Arab Republic witnessed exceptional circumstances manifested in the terrorist war waged against it, which resulted in the destruction of its infrastructure and developmental progress achieved by the Syrian people. Consequently, some areas in the Syrian Arab Republic witnessed instability that affected the region and the world as well. The most prominent features of recent years in the Syrian Arab Republic are:

- The spread of terrorism in the Syrian Arab Republic supported regionally and internationally by governments, regimes, individuals and organizations. It has contributed to spreading panic among the Syrians, depriving them of their basic rights, destroying their infrastructure and inflicting damage on Syrian development achievements. The terrorist armed groups, encompassing foreign fighters (recruited from more than 115 countries around the world) and Syrian criminals, were the operational tool of terrorism, committing murders, kidnapping, robbery, terrifying and starving people and targeting civilians and public and private facilities, including schools and hospitals as well as using booby traps and explosive devices, and destroying and polluting the environment. They have also used extremist religious discourse to recruit Syrian youth and children against their state and institutions.
- The continued Israeli aggression on the territories of the Syrian Arab Republic during the war, aiming at providing protection to the terrorist armed groups that spread in most of the Syrian areas. This has undermined stability in these areas, threatened its inhabitants and displaced tens of thousands of them and even threatened the security and life of the UN Disengagement Observer Force.
- The aggression and attacks carried out by the «International Coalition» and its allied militias on several Syrian regions, especially in the North and East. It is a US-led international coalition, in which France, Britain and other countries participated without the consent of the Syrian Arab Republic, which makes this coalition has no

international legitimacy, and is even considered a flagrant aggression against the sovereignty of a member state of the United Nations. According to documented national and UN reports, the International Coalition and its allied militias have targeted populated areas, schools, hospitals and infrastructure, such as dams, bridges and industrial areas, which, as a result, has claimed the lives of thousands of civilians, particularly children, women and the elderly. The destruction of infrastructure by the coalition has hampered efforts to re-launch the economic process more broadly. In this respect, the massive destruction inflicted by this «coalition» on more than 90% of the city of Raqqa in the Syrian Arab Republic and the killing of thousands of its inhabitants are a clear testimony to its reality.

- The Turkish military aggression that targeted many Syrian areas in the north of Syria and caused the death, injury and displacement of thousands of the population of these areas, as well as tremendous damage to their agricultural lands, natural environment and infrastructure. Moreover, the Turkish government has turned Turkey into a gateway to transit foreign terrorists fighters to the Syrian Arab Republic to launch their terrorist attacks against the Syrians and Syrian institutions, and has allocated dozens of camps and refugee camps on Turkish soil to train terrorists and provide them with logistical and intelligence support to carry out their terrorist operations on the Syrian territories.

- The European Union, the United States of America and other countries and regional entities have imposed a package of illegal unilateral coercive economic measures on the Syrian Arab Republic in violation of the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations. These measures have been aggravated since 2011 in order to target the stability of the Syrian economy and the effectiveness of its institutions and have caused significant losses and hindered the work of service facilities, which negatively affected the livelihood of the Syrians and the availability of employment opportunities and forced hundreds of thousands of them to emigrate and flee their homes. It is noteworthy that these measures targeted even the humanitarian response sectors supporting the Syrian people. They, thus, targeted the financing and money-transfer transactions of the international organizations operating in the Syrian Arab Republic, in addition to the fact that some states and international donors have subjected any funding for the Syrian Arab Republic to politicized agendas. Also, these unilateral measures hindered the supply by the Syrian state and international organizations of humanitarian aid to the Syrians, such as medicines, medical supplies and equipment, food and energy products required for the operation of health facilities.

Target (139): Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

For more than three decades prior to the war, the Syrian Arab Republic had a stable and secure mode of life at the individual and social levels, where there was almost no record of murders resulting from violence. In addition, the rate of deaths resulting from violence was very low in 2010. However, as the war started in 2011, this rate increased significantly reaching 2145% in 2011 and continued its rise by 361.6% in 2012 and by 36.6% in 2013. Particularly in 2013, the mortality rate due to violence peaked. It fell by 56.1% in 2014, and by 67.4% in 2015.

In fact, the high rate of death is due to an increase in terrorist attacks and various forms of hostilities carried out by terrorist armed groups adopting a systematic policy of murder, torture, rape and child recruitment, that are strongly supported with money, arms and logistical assistance by international and regional actors.

Social and political stability was the general framework of the Syrian situation over the four decades preceding the

outbreak of the war in 2011. The population movement was voluntary and most of it was part of voluntary internal migration. However, due to acts of terrorism and violence perpetrated by terrorist armed groups, displacement within the country increased, and some of the areas in which these groups are spread have become in a state of imbalance and instability as a result of massive population displacements from unstable areas where the terrorist spread towards stable areas. The internal displacement rate was 3290% in 2012 which increased in 2013 to reach 77.9%. In 2014, it increased by 0.9% more than the previous year. In 2015, the rate began to decline by 5.4%.

Based on the graphs included in this target, it is clear that both mortality rate and internal displacement rate have begun to decline since 2014 due to a number of reasons, most notably:

- The Syrian State's restoration of security and stability to large swathes of territory after liberating them from terrorism reflected positively on the mortality rate, while acts of violence and killing started to decrease, which led to a decrease in the number of violent deaths compared with previous years. The rate continued to decline due to the expansion of the Syrian state's control over these liberated areas and the provision of basic services to Syrian citizens.

- The intervention of the Syrian state in fighting terrorist groups and protecting civilians, in addition to the issuance of the «counter-Terrorism Law» No. 19 dated 28/06/2012, as well as the measures taken by the Syrian state to reduce internal displacement, restoring the stability over most of the Syrian areas, rehabilitating these areas and the return of displaced people, while national reconciliation agreements were completed in some areas. In addition, the Syrian state also provided these areas with various services, including education, health services, electricity, fuel and other basic needs, which contributed to the stability of those areas.

In addition to population displacements resulting from the war against the Syrian Arab Republic, displacement of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan continues as a result of Israel's occupation of the Syrian Golan and its impact on the displacement of a large number of Syrian citizens and on the achievement of the sustainable development goals in the Golan. Since occupying the Golan, Israel, the occupying power, has been practising various forms of repression and inhumane actions, displacing 131,000 Syrian citizens, destroying the city of Quneitra and more than 300 Syrian villages in the Golan. Only 5 villages survived the destruction, namely Majdal Shams, Ain Quneya, Buqata, Masada and Ghajar (examples of illegal Israeli laws in the occupied Syrian Golan and their impact on Syrian citizens are mentioned in indicator 139).

Target (140): End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

The rates and numbers of these acts witnessed a significant increase during the war in areas where terrorist armed groups spread and thus exploited people's needs (see table 60). The number of robberies and looting increased by 214.5% in 2011 compared with 2010 and continued to rise by 78.09% in 2012 and then began to decline gradually. It decreased by 17.9% in 2013 and continued its decline by 55.68% in 2014 and then 31.3% in 2015. As part of the efforts exerted by the Syrian state to achieve the main targets of ending abuse, exploitation and trafficking of human beings and ending all forms of violence against and torture of children and women, the Syrian state has been determined to put an end to many acts and practices perpetrated against women and children, and this has been reflected in the eventual lowering rates of these acts.

The status of women in the Syrian Arab Republic was greatly affected by the political, economic, social and security implications of the war. This is so because in situations of war and acts of violence, women and children become the weakest and most vulnerable target for numerous considerations, especially for exploitation by terrorist armed groups and criminals.

Unstable areas, in particular, have seen a marked increase in all forms and sorts of violence, particularly the abuse, exploitation and trafficking of women, predominantly during the years 2012-2014. The proportion of women who have suffered physical and sexual abuse and those who have been abused or trafficked increased. Nevertheless, the proportion declined in 2015 (see figure 24). National data clearly indicate that the proportions or rates of women exploited, trafficked or otherwise assaulted were high and saw a significant increase in 2013. For example, the proportion of women exposed to exploitation increased by 20.9% in 2013 although this proportion witnessed a decline of 25.6% in 2012.

In early 2015, the situation started to change. The proportion of women who were exploited decreased by 93.7%. Also, the proportion of women who were abused decreased from 22.3% in 2014 to 14.2% in 2015. However, the most remarkable increase was in the proportion of women exposed to trafficking, which increased from 17.3% in 2014 to 29.5% in 2015.

In order to alleviate the suffering of women and address the negative consequences of the war, the Syrian state has adopted several laws to combat terrorism, kidnapping and trafficking in persons. Both the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and the Syrian Commission for Family and Population Affairs have also taken measures to protect battered women and have thus established the Family Protection Unit to look after abused women and provide them with social, psychological and legal support.

Trafficking in human organs carried out by terrorist armed groups and their militias in the context of war resulted in a significant increase in the use of violence against children (498.3%) in 2012. This continued during the years 2013 and 2014 but at lower rates of growth. The rate of violence against women increased at a high rate of (207.8%) in 2012. The rate kept increasing but decreased by 38.2% in 2013. However, it increased again by 48.7% in 2014 and then decreased by 49.8% in 2015 (Figure 25).

In order to reduce crimes of violence against children, the Syrian state has undertaken a number of legal steps and measures, most notably the enactment of an amendment to Penal Code No. 11 of 2013 criminalizing the recruitment of children, or issuing a special law, as well as adopting a number of national plans and programs for the rehabilitation and integration of children. Other measures have been taken in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in order to include the provision of social care to unaccompanied children, the absorption and protection of children dropping out of school in unstable areas, and the preparation of a bill on children's rights (currently in its final stages of preparation).

The cases of murder and manslaughter increased considerably during the war, rising from 392 crimes in 2010 to 1586 in 2011 and reaching its peak in 2013 with 3,855 murders. This means that it increased by 1071.7% between 2010 and 2013. After 2013, it dropped gradually to 1853 crimes in 2014 and to 1007 in 2015, a decline of -73.8% in 2013 and 2015. As for theft cases, they rose from 666 in 2010 to 2095 thefts in 2011, and increased significantly to 3731 thefts in 2012, and then decreased slightly, reaching 3062 in 2013. In 2014, they fell sharply to 1,357 crimes and then dropped to 932 in 2015.

In 2010, the number of kidnappings did not exceed 0.001% of total crimes committed. However, at the beginning of the war, this percentage increased significantly by 1876.2% in 2011 and continued to rise in 2012 by 404.6%, but declined during the following years by 1609% in 2013, - 59.% in 2014, and 65.9% in 2015.

Murders, thefts and kidnappings were accompanied by trafficking in persons which has always been a rare phenomenon in the Syrian Arab Republic, not exceeding 1% in 2010. However, it increased by 249% in 2011, declined to 236.6% in 2012 and 218.7% in 2013 and then increased to 236% in 2014 and 265.5% in 2015.

National data has shown a decrease in the number of kidnappings, murders, larceny, crimes of trafficking in persons and other crimes in general. This was achieved after the Syrian State managed to liberate large swathes of territory from terrorism, restore stability to the country and issue new national laws that criminalize these offences and increase their penalties.

Target (141): By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.

Since 2011, the Syrian Arab Republic has been confronting a vicious campaign aimed at destabilizing its security and stability and interfering flagrantly with its internal affairs by other countries and regional entities. Using terrorism as a tool to achieve these aims has been the most prominent aspect of this intervention, while these entities have incited violence and terrorism, recruited foreign terrorist fighters and supported them with the aim of overthrowing the Syrian state. In its relevant reports, the United Nations has documented tens of thousands of foreign terrorists who have come from 115 countries to the Syrian Arab Republic funded by governments, organizations and others. Those foreign fighters have pledged allegiance to terrorist groups of multiple names and loyalties, linked to «Al Nusra Front» and «ISIS» terrorist organizations.

During the war, it was clear that «Israel» the occupying power was complicit in providing direct material, military and logistical support to «Al Nusra Front» and «ISIS» terrorists and other terrorist groups associated and affiliated with them, especially in the areas of disengagement, in violation of Security Council resolution 350 of 1974 as well as other Security Council resolutions and international counter-terrorism instruments. Israel's connivance has exacerbated the suffering of civilians in these areas and has threatened the security and safety of the personnel of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

Countries sponsoring terrorism in the Syrian Arab Republic have created various terrorist organizations, such as the «White Helmets», and provided different types of support to terrorist groups listed on the relevant Security Council lists, such as «ISIS», «Al Nusra Front» among others, to target civilians and destroy Syrian infrastructure and development progress achieved over the past decades. The officials of these countries have themselves admitted this support; for example, Qatar's former Prime Minister referred to the allocation of more than 137 billion US dollars by the rulers of Qatar and Saudi Arabia to target the Syrian state instead of directing it to support development plans in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Syrian Arab Republic considers the member states' and regional entities' adherence to UN resolutions, particularly Security Council resolution 2253, in combating terrorism as a top priority for improving the Syrian citizens' living conditions and initiating sustainable development in the Syrian Arab Republic. It is worth mentioning

that the Syrian government has fulfilled its constitutional, national and international commitments in this regard. It has dedicated efforts in the fight against terrorism in cooperation with its friends of countries that believe in the principles of international law and fight terrorism by words and deeds. These efforts have contributed to creating the right environment for preparing development plans as well as enhancing humanitarian response to the needs of Syrian citizens. Besides, progress in the fight against terrorism spread in the Syrian Arab Republic has provided the appropriate conditions to promote dialogue and partnership between the Syrians in building their country and revitalizing the development process.

The war in the Syrian Arab Republic has testified to the fact that as long as there are countries that rely on the use of power and interference in the internal affairs of other countries, and as long as the world's wealth is wasted and billions of dollars are spent on the use of terrorism as a tool to serve the agendas and interests of some countries, the levels of development we aspire to achieve will never be realized. On the contrary, societies will continue to lose their development gains achieved decades ago.

In fact, most indicators have seen a significant increase during the war years in all Syrian regions. For example, forests, woodlands, water resources and other resources have been targeted, allowing the shadow economy and smuggling operations to prosper. Targeting was mainly concentrated on areas rich in natural resources, including oil, gas, phosphate and other resources, where terrorist armed groups were spread to steal these natural resources, whether oil, gas, or others. In addition, they stole Syrian antiquities and artefacts and used their proceeds to finance terrorist operations, to buy weapons and ammunitions and to recruit foreign terrorist fighters, and criminals. These loots, including artifacts and antiquities, were smuggled and sold through European black market dealers and Turkish brokers. One of the most prominent examples of this is exhibiting a number of Syrian artifacts in international museums such as the Museum of London in violation of UN resolutions relating to the fight against terrorism and UNESCO resolutions requesting the return of these antiquities to the State of the Syrian Arab Republic (see table 61).

As the war broke out, the number of stolen and wasted oil barrels reached 2 million barrels in 2011. The number rose to 4 million barrels in 2012. The rise continued to 6 million barrels in 2013 and peaked to 22.3 million barrels in 2014. The number, however, declined by 2.3 million barrels to reach 20 million barrels in 2015. This means that the number of stolen and wasted barrels has increased by 10 times during the years 2011-2015, with a growth rate of 900%.

The amount of wasted and stolen domestic gas increased from 563 million cubic meters in 2011 to 40344 million cubic meters in 2014, indicating that the amount of wasted and stolen gas increased by 7065.89% during 2011-2014. It, nonetheless, decreased by 2.99%, reaching 39137 m3 in 2015, indicating that it increased by a growth rate of 6851.5% during the years 2010-2015.

The amount of oil and gas stolen, wasted and burned increased gradually during the years 2011-2015, reaching its peak in 2014. This increase is in actual fact due to the existence of terrorist armed groups in areas where most of the oil and gas fields are located, in the east and northeast of the Syrian Arab Republic. Attacks carried out by these terrorist groups and the destruction and damage they caused have deprived the Syrian Arab Republic of important resources and revenues urgently needed to improve the economic and living conditions of all Syrians. In addition, the destructive actions of armed groups have inflicted enormous damage on the natural environment, which becomes in need of huge budgets for maintenance, restoration and rehabilitation.

Terrorism has also affected the Syrian cultural and archaeological heritage; For example, between 2011 and 2015, more than 3558 artifacts were stolen from Syrian museums, monuments and archaeological sites dating back to different historical periods.

Target (142): Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

The war years witnessed a marked increase in various forms of corruption. For example, all quantitative indicators related to business activity, entrepreneurship, issuing building permits, access to electricity, registration of property, access to credit, tax payment, cross-border trade and settlement of illegal construction cases have declined.

In order to address the drawbacks and defects that contribute to broadening the scope of corruption, the Syrian State has taken a number of legal measures and procedures. These include the modification of the structure of government ministries and institutions, the enactment of legislation that criminalizes this type of action, such as the Economic Penal Law and the Anti Money Laundering, activating the role of regulatory authorities and supervisory agencies, such as the Central Authority for Supervision and Inspection and the Central Apparatus for Financial Supervision, and strengthening the role of the judiciary in combating corruption, bribery, misconduct and exploitation of influence.

Target (143): Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

There are a number of important organizational and institutional structures in the Syrian Arab Republic that exercise control over institutions and check their working mechanism on an ongoing and regular basis as a policy framework aimed at establishing the principle of transparency in the workplace. These authorities exercise their supervisory role at all levels without exception. In addition, there are a number of bodies that inspect and exercise control over the performance of the organizational and institutional structures mentioned above. All these bodies carry out different tasks with regard to supervision. Examples include, but are not limited to, a number of regulatory institutions, such as the internal auditing and supervision directorates in all institutions, the Central Service for Financial Supervision and the Central Authority for Supervision and Inspection. The most prominent and important control is exercised by the People's Assembly, as well as supervision by the media and other institutions.

Supervising and monitoring performance_ taking measures to address corruption and establishing greater transparency and clarity in the working mechanisms of the institutions_ have not been limited to the traditional control bodies and mechanisms mentioned above. Rather, the Syrian Government started to set up and form dozens of specialized technical committees to scrutinize the working mechanisms of many institutions, aiming to create a transparent environment that provides the basic conditions for achieving the principle of equal opportunities, justice and equality and that helps to put an end to the various forms of corruption.

The Syrian government constantly seeks to support the governance and the function of these regulatory institutions in order to upgrade their working mechanisms to international standards (the governance standards regulating the work of these institutions worldwide). Thus, the Syrian government has focused on the restructuring of regulatory institutions and the enactment of more legislation and laws related to the promotion of transparency and the combating corruption, as well as the development of the human capacities and knowledge of the executive cadres

in the various institutions and supervisory bodies. These can be achieved through training and qualifying programs, specialized courses and allocating funds for intensive investment in the human element. In addition, the Syrian government intends to provide improved and wider access to Internet services in various regions. All of this would help increase the opportunities for self-learning, develop capabilities and upgrade skills, and keep abreast with the latest developments in global governance institutions at the level of monitoring and supervisory indicators.

Within the framework of a general economic reform program, the Syrian government has planned to provide broader space for public dialogue on the state policies, especially economic policies affecting the citizen's life directly. Consequently, the Syrian government has expanded the margin of media freedoms, encouraged the efforts of highlighting the sources of corruption, and authorized the broadcast of more private media space channels. This is due to the fact that media is considered an important entry point that can help fight corruption and various forms of misconduct and deviations from the normal and legal course.

At the international level, the Syrian Arab Republic stresses the need to activate the accountability of governments, organizations and persons who have severely violated international law, international humanitarian law and human rights law during the war years in the Syrian Arab Republic. These violations include:

- Financing and sponsoring terrorism in the Syrian Arab Republic as a means of political pressure to destroy the Syrian institutions and blackmail them politically.
- Imposing unilateral coercive economic measures on vital Syrian sectors, such as food, health, education, energy and money transfers, instead of providing real support to these important sectors and their role to confront the war conditions.
- Negative foreign interference in Syrian political affairs, by supporting terrorism and planting the seeds of sedition, religious tensions, sectarianism and ethnic disharmony and division among the Syrian people.
- Unilateral suspension of international development projects for the Syrian Arab Republic.
- Deprive the Syrian Arab Republic of its membership in some international organizations, freezing the Syrian assets abroad and depriving Syrian institutions, especially Syrian banks and the business sector, of performing their role in securing citizens' living needs.
- Promoting sectarianism and religious tensions among the Syrians using various means of technology and the media.
- Imposing conditions on the provision of humanitarian assistance and reducing the financial allocations of humanitarian response plans.
- Depriving the population of the occupied Syrian Golan of their rights to self-determination, liberation from Israeli occupation and return to their motherland, in addition to depriving them of their full legitimate rights, especially their right to life, work, health, education, freedom of movement, ownership and to a decent living.

Target (144): Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

In early 2001, the Syrian government introduced a comprehensive and integrated economic and administrative reform program. Several studies, research papers and workshops have been conducted, and many experts with diverse and varied expertise have been consulted in order to identify the real problem confronting the Syrian

economy. All studies, research and expertise have concluded that the main problem arises on two levels: the need to enhance administrative decentralization and administrative work, and the extensive intervention of the state in various economic aspects (productivity and services). Therefore, the Syrian government started to focus on preparing and qualifying administrative and leadership cadres, and thus established several higher education centers for development and administrative training (such as the National Institute of Public Administration, the Higher Institute of Business Administration and the Higher Institute of Administrative Development, etc.).

In 2017, the administrative reform project was re-introduced as a government work program aimed at overcoming the administrative stagnation of the Syrian state institutions and activating and improving their performance, based on the development of institutions, in order to become more modern, transparent and effective. In the framework of economic and administrative reforms, the Syrian government has decided to shift from the central planning approach to an indicative planning approach, in light of the expansion of economic openness to the domestic private sector and the outside world within the framework of the social market economy. Furthermore, the Syrian government has given state councils and governorate administrations a greater margin of action without waiting for central directives and decisions.

At the economic level, the Syrian government has implemented many economic liberalization steps, especially with regard to the potential and opportunities of the private sector to engage in economic activities that were not previously available.

In early 2011, particularly in the context of war, the Syrian government embarked on broader reform steps at the economic, political and administrative levels. It developed a new executive program that includes a wide range of measures and policies, starting with lifting the state of emergency, adopting a new constitution in 2012, adopting several laws, such as the multi-party law, the general elections law, the local administration law and the right-to-protest law, designing training and qualifying programs, establishing both the Ministry of National Reconciliation and the Ministry of Administrative Development, and giving the local authorities (the governorate and state local councils) a major role in the management of the administrative units in a decentralized fashion. All of these steps aimed at enhancing decision-making in a responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative manner at all levels. In addition, the Syrian government has opted for issuing a participatory law and providing more facilities and procedures that can help the private sector and entrepreneurs to be real partners and initiators in the process of preparing for reconstruction.

Target (145): Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

In addition to the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic, the current conditions have limited Syria's participation at the international level and deprived it of many of the strengths it has enjoyed for decades.

The war and the terrorist operations and attacks, as well as the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic, have exhausted many of Syrian economic and political capabilities and capacities, and have prevented it from taking the opportunity to play an effective role in the course of international events, such as broadening and enhancing its participation in international governance institutions.

Target (146): By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.

As a result of the war, the Syrian society suffered from complex and complicated social problems that accompanied displacement, asylum and migration to various areas inside the country and abroad, such as births. This made many families unable to register their children. In addition, a large number of records and documents of civil registry were destroyed by terrorist armed groups. Therefore, the Syrian government has taken various measures and procedures at several levels, most notably:

- **Registration of children under the age of five:** The number of children under the age of five registered with the civil register amounted to 2590339 children in 2010, increased to 2700983 in 2011 and to 2751738 in 2012, then dropped to 2485593 in 2013 and continued to decline to 2061828 in 2014 and 1588812 in 2015.

- **Registration of children under 18 years:** Number of registered children was 9493714 in 2010, rose to 9732738 in 2011, continued to rise to 9916944 in 2012, decreased to 9839130 in 2013, and then continued to decline to 9567948 in 2014 and to 9272482 in 2015.

- **Issuing identity cards (ID):** Number of IDs granted was 788328 in 2010, increased to 890015 in 2011, and then to 738044 in 2012. The number decreased to 544015 in 2013, and continued to decline to 694693 in 2014 and to 476781 in 2015.

The decline in these indicators in recent years is due to the fact that there are areas where young people have not been able to obtain ID cards as terrorist armed groups were imposing siege on the residents, and also due to the increasing number of citizens who have left the country to other countries and have not been able to register new births as those countries do not have Syrian diplomatic missions.

The Syrian government has taken several measures to facilitate the registration of children and issuance of ID cards, such as opening alternative civil registries, increasing the number of service centres, adopting the single-window service system and issuing a legislative decree granting «the Syrian Arab nationality» to people registered as «foreigners» or «non-nationals» in Al Hasaka governorate by Legislative Decree No.49, 2011, in addition to guaranteeing the legal identity to all citizens by the Syrian Constitution.

Target (147): Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

The government of the Syrian Arab Republic has adopted a number of legislations, laws and policies that can assist in responding and adapting to the indicators that have come within the context of rights and freedoms, which fall within the scope of international agreements, human rights law and modern development literature. Accordingly, the Syrian Constitution and Syrian laws guaranteed the rights of citizens to access information through the adoption of the principle of transparency and freedom of opinion and expression. Also, the Syrian government has issued a wide range of laws, including the new Syrian Constitution, the Media Law and the Multi-Party Law. Several measures have also been taken to enable the public to access information through the websites of the ministries and government agencies. In addition, a special webpage is allocated to encourage participation in expressing opinions regarding the laws and other issues related to informing citizens about the results of the government's work.

At another level, in order to facilitate access to information and knowledge, the Syrian government has adopted an expansionist policy regarding communications and electronic media, and dozens of websites have been launched. It is important to strengthen international cooperation, in accordance with UN resolutions, to combat the misuse of the Internet, modern means of communication and technology and the media for purposes of supporting terrorism or promoting extremist ideas.

Target (148): Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity.

The government of the Syrian Arab Republic has signed dozens of agreements and memorandums of understanding with countries, international organizations and international agencies in various areas of technical support and capacity-building by means of development projects, rehabilitation and training programs, and workshops in various sectors, including administrative development, education, health, social affairs, women and children affairs, population and other issues. In this regard, many international programs have been implemented and supported by international organizations in the Syrian Arab Republic, such as the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) among others, which run courses, provide expertise and consultations and fund studies and research projects on various aspects of development (health, education, environment, etc.).

Target (149): Promote non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

Target indicators were covered within the targets of Goals 5 and 10.

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Target (150): Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.

The war has resulted in a decline in the levels of operational efficiency and production in the Syrian Arab Republic, a sharp decrease in many tax incentives, the exit of economic and service activities from the economic circle, a decline in import, export and investment, and the migration of many experts working in the administrative bodies and the tax departments. The Syrian government has endeavored to deal with these challenges by reducing tax rates, exempting from fines and settling irregularities and contraventions, thus contributing to the recovery of production levels and enhancing growth opportunities.

Within the framework of strengthening future international cooperation, horizons for international cooperation will be activated and enhanced at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, including relations with international bodies and organizations that can contribute to strengthening local capacities and competencies. The tax policies will be re-designed to meet the requirements of reconstruction programs and the possibility of adopting VAT and e-collection, especially with the implementation of the e-government initiative.

The estimated current revenues declined considerably during the war years, with the highest rates of decline between 2012 and 2013 (52.8%), while the decrease between 2014 and 2015 was (2.4%). This decline is attributed to the decline in tax collection and to the fact that many economic establishments stopped production. The estimated investment revenues continued to grow and reached their highest growth rates between 2014 and 2015 due to higher differences in oil derivatives prices.

Target (151): Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to for developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to to the least developed countries. ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of GNI to ODA to least developed countries.

Prior to the war, the Syrian Arab Republic was one of the countries receiving the least development-oriented assistance in the region, with per capita income of US \$ 4 in 2005 and US \$ 14.8 in 2010. As for the sectoral distribution of aid, infrastructure and services received the largest share of this aid reaching 70%, while the share of production

sectors did not exceed 5.3%. The rest of the aid was distributed among the sectors of energy, communications and humanitarian assistance for those affected by the drought.

As the war broke out in 2011, most of the countries that had cooperation agreements with the Syrian Arab Republic, aiming at implementing humanitarian, economic and development projects, activities and programs, suspended these cooperation agreements, except for the UN organizations operating in the Syrian Arab Republic, the International Committee of the Red Cross and some international organizations. All cooperation projects with these organizations, which were mainly focused on development programs, changed into activities providing humanitarian assistance to the war-affected population through preparing annual response plans for humanitarian needs starting from 2012. This change was manifested in the sectors highlighted in humanitarian response plans, with humanitarian and relief sectors receiving more than 90% of aid, while only about 10% was allocated to support other sectors.

Target (152): Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.

Prior to the war, the share of the Syrian Arab Republic in additional resources was very limited, even in areas of international dimension and global concern (such as international agreements and funds allocated to support and preserve the environment). In this respect, financial assistance and facilities from international financial institutions must be provided unconditionally and without restrictions.

In addition, several foreign funding agencies, which signed agreements and contracts with the Syrian government, aiming to finance development projects in several important sectors of the economic and human infrastructure, suspended or delayed the implementation of these contracts and agreements, which resulted in several negative effects on the real national economy and development. The unilateral coercive economic measures have also directly impacted the development projects financed by these entities, such as those financed by Arab funding institutions (Arab funds), those funded by regional funding agencies, and projects funded by development and international agencies (detailed in this target).

Target (153): Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress.

Prior to the war, the Syrian Arab Republic was categorized in the national and international development reports as one of the low-indebted countries. Most of its economic indicators, especially towards international lenders, were positive, and it was not affected by the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank. In particular, the Syrian policy aims at achieving self-sufficiency and refusing the imposed conditions of international financial institutions to contribute to financing the development process.

The Syrian Arab Republic has made comprehensive settlements of its external debt, particularly with the Eastern bloc and the former Soviet Union. These settlements significantly reduced debt service. Under unilateral coercive

economic measures that worsened during the war, the Syrian Arab Republic has relied on its savings to finance its economic, social and humanitarian needs and to open credit lines with its friend countries, such as the credit line with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Target (154): Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries.

Target (155): Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.

The development process requires cooperation between different countries in order to make the most of the development of knowledge and technology sciences, to contribute to development at the national, regional and international levels and to ensure that all countries, particularly the developing countries, have access to the latest high-tech innovations that contribute to increasing economic growth and human development. This requires all countries, in particular the developed ones, to support developing countries, and to lift restrictions on the transfer of knowledge and technology that contribute to supporting national economies, which will be manifested in the economic and humanitarian development indicators.

For example, the Syrian Arab Republic has not been able to modernize and upgrade its air transport fleet and purchase modern aircrafts, even from European companies, as a result of the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic by the United States of America (the so-called Syria Accountability Act 2005), as well as by the EU. In addition, the Syrian Arab Republic has not been allowed to obtain machines and advanced production lines in many fields of industry with high added value to the national economy. In addition, US and EU among other countries, have worked on disconnecting of the Syrian airlines and airports from the International air networks.

The Syrian government has adopted a strategy of strengthening South-South cooperation in the belief of the importance of such cooperation in wartime in order to find development alternatives and alleviate the impact of unilateral coercive economic measures that have contributed to the disruption of a major part of the national development plans.

Target (156): Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favorable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed.

Target (157): Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology.

These two targets require cooperation at the international level, a partnership in knowledge and innovation, benefiting from the research and inventions in the developed countries, providing developing countries with this knowledge, and training and qualifying their national cadres.

Target (158): Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

In spite of all the national efforts exerted by the Syrian Arab Republic to achieve sustainable development, achieving sustainable development goals at the national level requires greater and more effective international cooperation, as well as immediate lifting of unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic and on all developing countries. In addition, some Western countries should refrain from disrupting cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and a number of countries of the north. These steps will have a direct impact on promoting the achievement of sustainable development goals, as well as development and stability at the national, regional and international levels.

Target (159): Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda.

Since the beginning of the new millennium, the Syrian Arab Republic has embarked on a broad package of reforms aimed at building an institutional and regulatory framework for the transition to a social market economy. These reforms included the adoption and implementation of balanced fiscal and monetary policies that encourage foreign trade. Since 2001, the Syrian Arab Republic has been mobilizing efforts to join the World Trade Organization (WTO), but the opposition of the United States has barred the Syrian request from being included on the WTO's agenda. In 2008, the Syrian Arab Republic reached an initial partnership agreement with the European Union, but the final signature did not take place, for political reasons.

The Official Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has marked that the Syrian Arab Republic has not received any capacity-building assistance in trade since the beginning of the third millennium. On the contrary, in the course of the war, unilateral coercive economic measures were imposed on all Syrian sectors, including that of foreign trade.

Target (160): Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020.

Prior to the war, the geography of Syrian export was directed towards the Arab countries in the first place due to the complexities of export to developed countries. The Arab countries received 72% of the Syrian exports, in 2011. Syrian exports to the EU and the American countries accounted for 8.5% and 2.4% of total exports, respectively. Since the beginning of the war, the Syrian Arab Republic has had most of its bilateral agreements and free trade zones with Arab countries and Turkey unilaterally abolished; a measure that has negatively affected Syrian exports. Despite the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic, and notwithstanding the production and logistical difficulties and obstacles in supplying inputs, Syrian exports have increased significantly. The actual export earnings of foreign exchange ranged between \$ 10 and \$ 15 million per day throughout 2016. Syria has set up an array of incentives for the productive sectors, which have had a significant impact on the promotion of exports and the opening up of economic cooperation with alternative commercial markets.

Target (161): Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access.

Target (162): Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence.

This target has global dimensions since it tackles issues that structure common areas and axis of cooperation: cross-border issues such as trade, prices, access to technology, employment and mobility of labor, as well as improving the terms of «international relations and equitable exchange.» The Syrian Arab Republic's contribution to these issues has been covered in various parts in the body of this report, such as in Goal 8 and in certain targets of Goal 17.

Target (163): Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.

The terrorist war against the Syrian Arab Republic has not impeded the renewal of the societal aspect of the role of the State neither that of working towards the achievement of sustainable development as a shared responsibility between State and society via the development of appropriate legislation and policies. Among these legislations are: the new Syrian Constitution, 2012, the amendment of legislation on local administration by Legislative Decree No. 107, 2011, the amendment of the Environment Law and the creation of the Regional Planning Commission based on the Regional Planning Law No. 26, 2010.

Target (164): Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

The integration of national policies on sustainable development in all its economic, social and environmental dimensions, with international policies aimed at development and eradication of poverty (Rio + 20 conference, Agenda 21, Johannesburg conference, and the Millennium Development Goals Conference) requires strengthening national leadership and ownership of these policies and programs. Thus the provisions of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness stress that implementation takes into account the needs of developing countries and the commitment of developed countries to provide support to developing countries in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The provisions also emphasize providing appropriate additional funding, support, transfer and localization of technology and capacity building. They stipulate that the aid in question places no burden on the recipient developing countries.

Target (165): Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.

On the macro level, and in addition to the repercussions of the global crises: the food crisis, the energy crisis, the economic financial crisis, the rise in the prices of many commodities and raw materials and the negative repercussions of the ongoing climate crisis and global warming, the Syrian Arab Republic suffers from growing regional instability. This instability comes as a result of the American occupation of Iraq (2003) and the continued Israeli occupation of many Arab territories in the region as well as its repeated aggression against them and the impact all this has had on the Syrian Arab Republic necessitating that a large part of its available resources are employed to confront this state of affairs.

The Syrian Arab Republic also faces many difficulties in obtaining advanced technology, one which plays a significant role in the effective implementation of various development projects, both macro and sectoral. These difficulties are not only limited to the effects of war and financial constraints but also extend to the difficulty of access to advanced production and service technologies and the complications of implementing vital projects, such as Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM), due to the illegal unilateral coercive economic measures imposed by the US and European countries on the Syrian Arab Republic. It is vitally important that the Syrian Arab Republic gets the needed support and transfer of technology and expertise, in order to enhance sustainable development, without the imposition of restrictions and/or preconditions.

On the local level, the obstacles and challenges to achieving effective sustainable development are distributed throughout the Syrian Arab Republic, at multiple levels: institutional and legislative, accompanied with a shortage of some specialized capacities and expertise in quality areas.

In addition to above, there is a shortage of human resources with specialized quality expertise, such as those in the fields of environmental economy and costs of environmental degradation, or in the area of development of computer programs that simulate and extrapolate current and future situations. Add to that, the Syrian government is unable to purchase and localize many important information programs, which are important tools in the management and planning of sustainable development, because suchlike products are banned from being exported to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Target (166): Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

Public-Private partnership in the Syrian Arab Republic as an approach and policy dates back to the 1980s and earlier, with many legislations related to the «Joint sector» of partnerships among public, private sectors and non-governmental organizations across various domains. The Syrian government has worked to develop participatory thinking in all its forms, including the Build–operate–transfer (BOT) projects and these efforts have culminated in the promulgation of the participatory law No. 5, 2016, which allowed Syrian public bodies to establish participatory projects with non-governmental organizations.

As part of the development and consolidation of the foundations of sustainable and balanced development, the Syrian Arab Republic has formulated strategies, implemented quality public policies and strengthened the role of institutions involved in sustainable development, in tandem with the signing of international and regional agreements and protocols and the implementation of their components. Among these are the development of institutional structures and the implementation of programs, projects and plans agreed-upon under these agreements and their subsequent follow-up agreements and protocols, in compliance with international and regional principles.

Target (167): By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

Despite of the circumstances of the war and in implementing its commitments to achieve the objectives of sustainable development, the Syrian Arab Republic is conducting several statistical surveys in cooperation with concerned international organizations: for example, the Multi-Purpose Integrated Demographic and Social Survey, the household food security survey, the Disability Survey and the Survey of Economic Establishments.

The development of mechanisms for the collection, classification, analysis and deduction of specific and reliable data, especially those relating to sustainable development, requires that developed countries increase “quality” technical and financial support to train and habilitate statistical staff in the latest economic and social statistics programs so as to carry out needed surveys on time.

Target (168): By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries.

The Syrian Arab Republic has carried out quality cooperation with a number of international organizations over the past years to implement a number of projects related to the production of statistical data and surveys, which contribute to the development of economic, social and developmental databases and information. These, will, in the future, lead to monitor and evaluate the achievements of the goals and targets of sustainable development. This cooperation continues through bilateral cooperation programs with each international organization, and through the strategic framework for cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Nations, which includes all international organizations.

Conclusion

Since the beginning of the new millennium, the Syrian Arab Republic has embarked on a wide package of reforms aimed at building an institutional and regulatory framework for the transition to a social market economy. These reforms included the adoption and implementation of balanced fiscal and monetary policies that would encourage foreign trade. Significant economic results were achieved through a development that is based on the domestic resources of the public and private sectors. Thus, direct foreign investments do not constitute a large percentage of total investment in the Syrian Arab Republic. Syrian as well as the Syrian exports grew in size and value and their sectoral composition increased.

Prior to the war, the Syrian Arab Republic was one of the developed countries that received the least Official Development Assistance (ODA) either by value or per capita. In the last years leading up to the war, it has succeeded in reducing its long-term debt, according to the Debt-Service Coverage Ratio, making it the first in the Arab region—excluding the surplus countries.

Internally, the war caused damage to production sectors and led to the cessation of most of them, and was externally accompanied with illegal unilateral coercive measures. Both factors have resulted in a weakening of the State's financial revenues and a depletion of its potential to invest in the economic and social sectors. Public spending, thus, exclusively centered on meeting the basic needs of survival and livelihood of citizens and maintaining the stability and unity of the country. The damage that befell the economic sectors has reflected adversely on the production surplus usually put aside for export. This latter suffered from difficulty in importing raw materials and inputs and the high costs resulting from the low purchasing power of the Syrian pound and the increase in shipping costs to the Syrian Arab Republic due to the high degree of risks associated with the war's repercussions and the unilateral coercive economic measures.

Since the beginning of the war, most countries have suspended their bilateral cooperation with the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as their aid and development programs. The international missions coordinating the implementation of these programs and assistance, with the exception of international organizations affiliated with the United Nations, left the country, while a number of countries imposed unilateral coercive economic measures on the Syrian Arab Republic.

In order to respond to the humanitarian needs of Syrian citizens, the Syrian Government initiated a humanitarian response plan with United Nations organizations aimed at mitigating the impact of the war on those affected people whose livelihoods and living conditions became dire, and whose homes were damaged. The plan covered many sectors, including food security, health, education and other social services, but immediate humanitarian assistance came at the expense of most of the UN development programs and projects that existed in the Syrian Arab Republic before the war and which, now, came to a halt.

Some States, in particular the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, People's republic of People's Republic of China and Japan continued to support the vital Syrian development sectors and provided humanitarian support, both directly and through United Nations organizations. This support is highly appreciated by the Syrian Arab Republic.

The persistence of unilateral coercive economic measures and support of terrorism—thus demolishing the efforts of the international community to reduce development disparities between states and assist developing countries and states facing crises in achieving their sustainable development—will adversely affect the potential and capacities of Syrian state institutions—via enhancing means of implementation and revitalizing global partnership—to achieve the goal of sustainable development aspired for.

In order to achieve sustainable development, the Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes the need for the United Nations member states to commit themselves to implementation with a view to achieving a qualitative leap at the international level and to guarantee the enjoyment of the right to development for all. This requires full commitment to the contents of the United Nations resolutions and their major development documents, in particular, the following:

- Respect for the sovereignty of the United Nations member states, non-interference in their internal affairs, respect for the sovereignty of states over their natural resources and national ownership of development plans.
- Combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the financing of terrorism for political gains, holding supporters of terrorism accountable and punish them.
- Immediately end the suffering of people living under foreign occupation and, particularly, liberate the population of the occupied Syrian Golan and the Palestinian people from the Israeli occupation that has been going on for more than five decades, and support their right to self-determination and to achieving sustainable development.
- Immediate lifting of unilateral coercive economic measures imposed by states and regional entities on other states, particularly on developing countries.
- Respect for human rights, in particular the right to development.
- Provide adequate support to developing countries, particularly ODA, technology transfer and capacity-building, without imposing preconditions and/or additional burdens on the latter.
- Take serious steps to ensure effective participation of developing countries in the governing of global economic institutions, especially the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

