

# Summaries



جسور للدراسات  
JUSOOR for STUDIES

**Paper on the De Mistura principles for  
a ceasefire in Syria**

# ***Paper on the de Mistura principles for a ceasefire in Syria***

Summaries

February 2016

All rights reserved Jusoor Center for Studies 2016

Jusoor (for Studies) Center is an independent institution specialized in disseminating information, conducting studies and research concerned with political, social, economic, and legal affairs in the Middle East with a special focus on Syrian affairs. Jusoor extends bridges for authorities and decisions makers in different state specializations and development sectors. Jusoor aims to help them to make balanced decisions regarding issues in the region by providing them with data and detailed realistic scientific reports.



**Turkey - Gaziantep**

**+90 537 558 5821**

**www.jusoor.co**

**info@jusoor.co**

**@jusoorstudies**

## ***Paper on De Mistura's principles for a ceasefire in Syria, A draft roadmap for ceasefire- principle paper***

### The most important points in the paper

- Peace follows operational discussions to hold a local ceasefire gradually to reach the point of an agreement.
- The United Nations will not be able to monitor or impose any agreement that may ensue from the ongoing discussions.
- The Syrian regime and the armed brigades will themselves monitor the ceasefire. If the situation on the ground improves, the United Nations' Envoy's office may expand its role in Syria.
- A clear transition in the role of the Group Supporting Syria from a sponsor of the negotiations to a guarantor of the agreements.
- Three options to monitor the ceasefire which are: an international monitoring mission to monitor the ceasefire in all its details, reliance on locals with technical support from the international community, or a joint international and local monitoring team.

### Signs of the implementation of the ceasefire

Moving from the Vienna negotiations, De Mistura outlines the signs the ceasefire is being implemented, and the most significant are:

1. Starting to implement the ceasefire process continuously.
2. The Friends of Syria group play the role of international guarantee by:
  - a. Complete coordination with the Special Envoy.
  - b. Ensuring the practical connection between the government and the opposition.
  - c. Putting forth local initiatives for ceasefire in conjunction with other ongoing activities as part of the (Vienna) process.

## The comprehensive concept of execution

De Mistura sets forth a comprehensive concept for execution emphasizing its most important points:

1. The need for commitment to fundamental human rights.
2. The Syrian monitors, with support from the international group and from his personal office, will undertake real monitoring of the initiatives similar to what happened in Al-Zabadani.
3. The continued work towards a complete ceasefire.
4. In the event of international initiatives these must be connected with the comprehensive strategies.

## Mobilizing the monitoring work and supporting local initiatives

To achieve the aforementioned title, the following is presumed:

1. The need for experts to be present in Damascus, Geneva, and New York, and the gradual execution of work.
2. The peacekeeping forces formed of international forces are inappropriate for the task of monitoring the ceasefire as the failure of their efficacy in 2012 is testament.
3. Strengthening the Envoy's office for it to oversee the agreements for the ceasefire.

## The local execution of monitoring

1. It occurs by communicating with local authorities, triangulating the information that is received from them and from other parties, to facilitate arriving at solutions.
2. This method is seen to reaffirm local trust, it is more flexible, and has the highest possibility of the involved parties starting with it.

## The principle tasks of the Special Envoy's Office

1. Ensuring the provision of suitable offices for local mediators that include restricted and confidential means of communication, and their ability to conduct necessary consultation operations in areas outside of Damascus.
2. Providing technical consultations, developing knowledge of the operation sites, collecting and receiving data, organizing the data, analyzing it, and transferring it to the specialist parties.
3. Coordinating humanitarian and rebuilding efforts, breaking down conflicts that develop from operations targeting Daesh, and providing the necessary medical and education training to staff.
4. Communicating with the international group and partners in activities against Daesh to ensure the breaking up of conflicts through initiatives related to the ceasefire. These are accompanied by the special envoy's office undertaking operations outside of Damascus dependent on the security situation.

## Demands of the Special Envoy's Office

1. The presence of experts in information management under the leadership of a prominent and experienced military leader.
2. Obtaining in real time satellite image information and information from other observational media, without fully depending on it, to investigate the incoming information from the field.

## Monitoring Options

De Mistura places three options for monitoring operations and they are:

1. Independent monitoring.
2. Technical support and monitoring of the ceasefire.
3. Local and international actors implementing the monitoring activities as a partnership.

## Firstly: Independent Monitoring

And based on it:

1. Distributing the independent international monitoring forces, independently of any local monitoring operations.
2. It plays a neutral role, provides reports directly to the Special Envoy's office about the circumstances of the ceasefire from the areas the forces can be distributed in.
3. A dispute may develop between the information provided by the independent monitors, the local monitors, and such disputes require the existence of solutions known as the actual reality, and this demands principle duties of them:
  - a. Putting in place a special concept about monitoring and notification of violations
  - b. Executing the monitoring tasks independently and neutrally in ceasefire sites.

## Second: Technical Support and Monitoring of the Ceasefire

Deploying an international group and of their tasks:

1. Providing local monitors with technical support.
2. Supervising the monitoring operations
3. Auditing the quality of the actors conducting the monitoring, and developing their skills in an initially temporary center.
4. Organized and consistent movements between the different ceasefire sites to provide support and audit performance.
5. Dealing with gaps in commitment through direct monitoring and information transfer.
6. Putting in place a stable working plan for local execution, reviewing the local monitoring team's activities, and notifying about performance indicators.

### Third: Equally joint execution of local and international actors

Based on a traditional execution of shared monitoring operations that includes local and international actors; the most important issues mentioned in this section are:

1. Limiting the operations that are executed internationally to the no fly zone areas, and these operations will be conducted by local actors with the necessary guarantees for their security.
2. The scheme of joint execution depends on identifying the sites, and it is expected especially during the first stage from any ceasefire operation that these sites will be limited.

Execution Options and many points are listed in this section, of them:

1. Prior knowledge of the international actors with the capacity to deploy rapidly, and they are usually actors in the civil sector.
2. Any peace keeping operation conducted by the United Nations will not be the suitable tool to deploy those actors, but they can work under the supervision of a special and expansive political envoy.
3. Alternative mechanisms can be depended on to support the actors' deployment based on prior cases such as: Sudan, Ukraine, and Sri Lanka.
4. All of these schemes need a large percentage of Arabic speaking actors, and those coming from the member states who are accepted by all sides participating in the conflict.
5. It is expected that the scheme will be executed preliminarily in a few sites that are agreed upon to be suitable, and then the actors gradually expand the number of sites the schemes are executed in.

## The Principle Assumption

The paper concluded with a number of principle assumptions and they are as follows:

1. The commitment to execute the Vienna operation by local, national and international parties.
2. A good but incomplete ceasefire is implemented; the ceasefire can be achieved between the sides that agree to the items, conditions, and agree on the monitoring system.
3. The ceasefire's special circumstances will continue to enable local negotiations to take place if possible, and these negotiations can then be monitored.
4. A limited number of parties, or stalled sides, will remain outside of the ceasefire operational framework and there will be a continuation of the violence.
5. The oppositional parties were identified, the terrorist groups were identified, a coordination mechanisms were put in place to end the conflict for all parties as well as operations against Daesh.
6. Daesh and other extremist actors control some strategic areas, they have the ability to reach other areas, and execute complicated attacks.
7. There is a situation of the withdrawal of laws and social cohesion, there are massive humanitarian needs, challenges facing the rebuilding process, and economic deterioration.