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· **What is the position of France regarding the international convention sponsored by the UN to reach political agreements in Syria and Iraq?**

- As permanent member of the United Nations Security Council France has always encouraged a UN backed solution to the protracted conflicts of Iraq and Syria. The government of the French Republic would like to recall its strong preference for a multilateral arrangement involving all parties to the conflict. Such an arrangement should be legalized by the adoption of a UN Security Council Resolution that France is happy to draft and support on behalf of its allies.
- In light of this multilateral effort, recently reelected French President François Hollande, is willing to maintain its decisive military engagement in Syria and northern Iraq redeployed since 2015 and bound to stay until an international agreement is reached.
- Recalling the humanitarian crisis and the atrocities committed over years by Da'esh over Syrian and Iraqi territories, France remains attached to its long standing position: the imperious need to create a new and inclusive political space in Syria with new leaders. This provision and the departure of the current political leadership in Syria should be included in any future UN Resolution.
- Finally, France is calling for the establishment of an international commission of inquiry that will investigate alleged crimes of war and crimes against humanity.

How does France see the solution of the Syrian crises?

- France is fully determined to eliminate the threat still posed by Da'esh. It will continue to resort to military means to combat remaining Da'esh forces in Syria and Iraq. France will make use of all necessary means to deter terrorist acts on its own soil.
- According to the long standing and well known position of France, the future of Syria cannot include leaders responsible of atrocities and the perpetrators of exactions at the root of the the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Thus, the political future of Syria will not include Syrian leader Bachar El-Assad and his affiliates.
- France calls for the establishment of a new political infrastructure in Syria allowing for the inclusion of all parties dedicated to the values of democracy, peace and security. Future institutions should allow for a degree of autonomy over disputed regions and assure the equal representation of all Syrian parties.
- In light of current events inside and outside Syria, France calls for the establishment of a broad military coalition as the sole mean to ensure the conditions of a long-term peace. Such a coalition should grant the departure of all foreign parties and militias from Syrian territory.
- France has a long history in the region, well established partners and a thorough knowledge of local cultures. France stands out as a central partner in the region and is looking forward to cooperating with all good willing parties.

How does France see the solution of the Iraqi crises?

- The government of France would like to recall its continuing efforts to promote a diplomatic solution since the debates held in 2003 at the Security Council of the UN.
- France has witnessed with great sorrow the degradation of the humanitarian situation in Iraq and the occupation of key cities and areas by Da'esh combatants. Religious and political violence have undermined all efforts to build a new and peaceful Iraqi society.
- France calls for all parties to refrain from the use of force in cities that have been liberated from Da'esh. The legitimate and internationally recognized government of Iraq should be able to enforce civilian rule in all areas under its jurisdiction.
- France calls for an increased role of religious actors in reconciliation initiatives along with civil society leaders and organizations.
- While France firmly support present Iraqi institutions, it also encourages Iraqi political leadership to renew their engagement towards the establishment of solid well established democratic institutions. Fighting against corruption and religious divisions remains essential.

How does France see the solution of the humanitarian crises (refugees) in the Middle East?

- France highest priority is to guarantee humanitarian access to all refugees and displaced persons.
- France calls for the establishment of a humanitarian corridor protected by UN forces allowing international humanitarian and aid agencies as well as specialized NGOs to protect civilian populations still in danger.
- France will put on the UN Agenda a proposal of a large international donors' conference aimed at providing sufficient funds to pursue long-needed humanitarian efforts.
- France is also asking for the establishment international criminal procedures in order to investigate international displacements of groups of populations in Syria and Iraq.
- France will coordinate with its European partners to ensure refugees already present on European territory are taken care of in the most appropriate manner. France will increase the level of its diplomatic cooperation in this area.
- In regards to refugees already established outside the borders of Syria and Iraq, France considers that they should be allowed to return to their home country as soon as local conditions appear to make it possible.
- Finally, France would like to recall that it has always favors the return of refugees of the region in their homeland, encouraging alternative solutions to be negotiated when such returns do not appear to be feasible or appear to threaten peace and security.

What is the position of France regarding the foundation of an independent Kurdistan?

- France remains preoccupied by the situation in northern parts of Iraq and in the Kurdish area.
- France praises the military engagement of Kurdish combatants in the battle against Dae'sh.
- The position of France has not changed since the official visit of its Minister of Foreign Affairs in 2014 in Erbil. The French government recognize the cultural identity and ancient traditions of Kurdish communities and their legitimate quest for official recognition.
- France calls for all parties in the region to establish new relationships based on cooperation and mutual understanding. France would encourage the Turkish government on a bilateral and multilateral level to renew a long-standing dialogue with Kurdish political representation.

· **What is the position of France regarding the inclusion of the Israeli – Palestinian conflict in the international convention that will discuss the Syria and Iraq crises (Abu Mazen want to include the issue in the conference)?**

- The government of France praises all good willing initiatives aimed at resolving the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, putting an end to suffering on both sides.
- Pursuant to its Peace initiative of Spring 2016, France is convinced of the need for a broad multilateral initiative in the Middle East.
- France offers its good services and encourages all parties to join and support its diplomatic initiative for the Middle East as part of a broader solution in the region.
- France remains preoccupied by the situation between Israel and Palestine and remains attached to a two-State solution bringing justice and security for all parties