



52nd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 27 February–4 April 2023

Item 4: Interactive dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic (21.3.2023)

Joint oral statement delivered by **New Humanity** (*Jorge M. Dias Ferreira*)

Mister President,

New Humanity and the co-signing NGOs welcome the report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic. The recent catastrophic earthquake has further deteriorated the humanitarian and economic capacity.

The broad economic sanctions imposed on Syria have largely contributed to the worsening economic and humanitarian situation with a tremendous impact on the Syrian population. They have hampered the ability of NGOs and Church-based organizations to deliver essential aid and to contribute to a just recovery.

While we appreciate the adoption by sanctioning states of general license to allow relief operations and reconstructions following the deadly earthquake, these are not sufficient to allow for long-term reconstructions.

Mr. President, the Syrian population deserves to live in dignity.

We, therefore call on sanctioning States to remove all those sanctions that prevent the Syrian population from accessing basic needs and services, essential health supplies and that inhibit the reconstruction of basic infrastructure destroyed by the ongoing conflict and by the earthquake.

We also call on States to engage with the banking sector to simplify procedures for money transfer to Syrian humanitarian and development organizations to ensure a full and inclusive socio-economic recovery in the country.

Thank you.