Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic
Position Paper for the United Nations General Assembly

Following eight years of civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic in which terrorist groups posing as “rebels” threw the country into turmoil the Syrian government is proud to have regained control over the country and is focussing its efforts on the rebuilding of the Syrian state. Whilst not forgetting the disgusting civilian bloodshed, the destruction of invaluable cultural heritage and economic collapse, the Syrian Arab Republic is now looking forward and optimistic of returning to the proud and strong Syria of the past. As such, the Syrian Arab Republic would like to stress the importance of discussing the topics before the United Nations General Assembly today, namely “The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament”, “Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System” and “Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women”.

I. The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament

The Syrian Arab Republic has focussed continuous efforts on the disarmament of weapon systems and re-strengthening international security. Syria sees the urgent necessity to implement emerging technologies in order to properly identify perpetrators of attacks and prevent further breaches of international security, as the Syrian conflict has been marked by stark cases of shameful accusations aimed at the government of Syria following terrorists’ use of chemical weapons. However, having successfully proven that Syria is a trusted partner, after allowing for the destruction of its chemical weapons capacities by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in 2014, the State is proud to be at the forefront in the struggle for further disarmament. Syria also sees the urgent need for modern technology-based surveillance systems in order to combat tad of terrorist and extremist ideologies online.

The Syrian Arab Republic acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in 2013, with the OPCW confirming the following year, that Syria's chemical weapons had been dismantled. The OPCW-UN Joint Mission, in its role monitoring the Syrian conflict, oversaw the elimination. Prior to this, Syria ratified the United Nations 1992 Treaty Chapter XXVI on Disarmament adhering to “the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction”. With the Syrian Arab Republic showcasing its commitment to disarmament it became clear that further chemical weapons attacks in the country were being perpetrated by terrorist groups. Syria's efforts have been recognised by the international community with Syria assuming the presidency of the UN's Conference on Disarmament. Whilst past efforts have shown substantial improvement, fostering further international security requires the implementation of new technology and new concepts.

The Syrian Arab Republic thus calls upon the international community to intensify its efforts on developing new monitoring systems allowing for the successful identification of perpetrators of attacks in order to hold those accountable who threaten international security and reduce wrongful allegations. An international think-tank funded through the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission can provide such solutions in a timely manner. In addition, Syria emphasises the necessity of further implementation of modern online surveillance systems in order to further combat terrorism and uphold international security. Lasting security can only be achieved through the long-term destruction of those opposed to it. Thorough surveillance of potential threats' online activity provides a unique opportunity of preventing attacks. It also allows a successful opportunity of monitoring disarmament agreements. The Syrian Arab Republic believes that, if the international community is to be successful in achieving further disarmament and, ultimately, international security, it must make use of invaluable modern technological systems. Whilst these can only complement efforts by individual states and the global community, they allow assistance in moving towards a peaceful world.

II. Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System

The Syrian Arab Republic is highly committed to its role in the United Nations. It is, however, with grave deep-rooted problems regarding transparency and accountability in the United Nations as frequently criticised by UN employees and other governments such as that of the Republic of India. This problem is

highlighted by a flood of reports and resolutions wrongfully condemning the Syrian government for atrocities perpetrated by other conflict parties. Accurate reporting has clearly been neglected in the work of UN inspectors and envoys to Syria, as the flood of wrongful information clearly shows.

The Syrian Arab Republic is appalled by the gross misinterpretation of the background of attacks in Syria which are showcased in Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/37/L.1 (2018) and reports made by the "UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria" including their report on "The siege and recapture of eastern Ghouta marked by war crimes, crimes against humanity". The Syrian Arab Republic subsequently believes that improving the United Nations' mechanisms for accountability and transparency can only be truly successful if the UN commits to far-reaching reforms. As such, Syria welcomes the efforts made by the president of the General Assembly, Espinosa Garces to improve the UN's transparency through new information on both institutional and personal finances and the use of new technological systems in order to increase efficiency and subsequently make valuable funds available for other matters. It is clear, that this reform must stretch to the work of all UN bodies and affiliated organisations if it is to be successful. The insight into personal and institutional finances of high-ranking UN representatives, authors of reports and experts analysing war-time atrocities is also deemed of high importance by the Syrian government.

The Syrian Arab Republic thus draws attention to the necessity of improving the accuracy of UN reports. The UN can only be fully trusted as a transparent international organisation if the truthfulness of its reporting can be assured by conducting background checks on potential financial interests of authors.

III. Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women

The Syrian Arab Republic has always placed great emphasis on creating a society in which men and women can live together in safety and prosperity. As such the Syrian government is appalled by violence against women, particularly occurring in war zones. When conflicts erupt throughout the world, it is often women who suffer the most, facing injury, death and an increased threat of sexual violence. The Syrian conflict showcases this, with women living in territories held by terrorists facing sexual violence and torture on a daily basis. Daesh's use of sex slaves is just one example of how so-called rebel parties in the Syrian conflict have repeatedly and systematically used violence against women.

The Syrian Arab Republic has long been committed to protecting women and has placed great efforts in protecting women in armed conflicts as emphasised in the United Nations Security Council resolution1325 (2000), 1888 (2009) and General Assembly resolution 3318 (1974). It is thus appalled by the shocking and wrongful allegations made against the Syrian government in recent years. It is also committed to ending discrimination against women as highlighted in the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The Syrian Arab Republic believes current measures have been successful but lack the necessary force to fully prevent future violence against women in conflict zones. Accordingly, a joint international response is necessary to ensure further protection and an end to all forms of violence against women in war.

The Syrian Arab Republic thus further invites states to expand in the use of sanctions in addressing sexual violence as debated by the Security Council in October. Syria believes that the far-reaching results can be achieved in protecting women by focussing on the arena of the gravest violence, war zones. By holding perpetrators of such crimes accountable through on-the-ground reporting mechanisms in accordance with current UN Human Rights programmes, Syria believes that sexual violence can not only be penalised but also reduced by ensuring that actors in conflicts are aware of the fact that their actions will be addressed with sanctions (including those of economic nature) directly affecting the military-capabilities of those responsible. Furthermore, Syria calls upon its fellow member states to assist the Syrian government in the fight against terrorism and to respect Syria's territorial integrity as terrorist groups engaged in the Syrian conflict represent the gravest threat to women. The Syrian Arab Republic stays committed to its goal of ending all violence against women and invites the entire international community to join its proud endeavour in doing so.