

VNR Statement for Syria

I am Rabie Nasser from the Syrian Center for Policy Research. This statement is based on consultation with 30 civil society organizations and resulted in a VNR report that is available [online](#).

The government VNR is largely detached from reality, assuming health and education goals will be met by 2030 despite ongoing conflict. Political power is fragmented among four factions, with a lack of rule of law, sovereignty, and stability, dominated by military and security forces. Various regional and international powers exert control over political and economic resources.

Conflict has severely impacted human development, causing significant casualties, displacement, and destruction of infrastructure. Public health indicators have fallen, and educational opportunities for children have diminished. The economy has shifted towards militarization and aid dependency, leading to extreme poverty and food and human insecurity. Civil society has expanded, but social relationships have fragmented, fueled by hate speech and identity politics. Environmentally, there has been extensive damage to natural resources and biodiversity.

The government review fails to address the Syrian government's role in the conflict, instead attributing the collapse to external factors like sanctions. The government's use of violence to suppress protests and its policies of collective punishment have resulted in grave human rights violations. Public institutions have been manipulated to support military operations, aggravating social divisions and fueling the conflict economy. The political and economic elite have captured the remaining economic opportunities and deprived most Syrians of basic living standards.

The report overlooks the strategies of non-state actors and lacks proposals for governance transforming, justice, security sector accountability, and adherence to international resolutions. Technically, the review presents flawed and misleading developmental evidence, often based on incomplete or distorted data. Current policies hinder the achievement of SDGs by 2030, preserving conflict and collapse.