

**Statement by the Small Group of
The Global Coalition to Counter ISIL / Da'esh
Berlin, 17 November 2016**

1. The Small Group of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL (Da'esh) met today in Berlin at the invitation of Ambassador Sabine Sparwasser of the Federal Republic of Germany and U.S. Special Presidential Envoy Brett McGurk to review the progress of our collective effort to liberate Mosul and to build momentum towards the isolation and liberation of Raqqa. These are essential milestones in our campaign to put Da'esh on a path to lasting defeat. We also used this opportunity to focus more clearly on the threats Da'esh's external operations pose to our nations and to explore what more we can do to support one another against these threats. As a Coalition, we remain united in our determination to destroy Da'esh, disrupt its global ambitions and discredit the toxic ideology that inspires its followers and sympathizers. The atrocities carried out by Da'esh over the last two years, including what we have seen reported recently in and around Mosul, such as massacres, discovery of mass graves and the use of civilians as "human shields," only strengthen our resolve. We condemn these horrific acts in the strongest terms.
2. We welcome the decisive progress we have seen in Syria against Da'esh since July, including the expulsion of Da'esh from the entirety of Turkey's border and from Manbij, Jarabulus, and Dabiq. We recognize Turkey's significant contribution to the campaign against Da'esh and salute all our partners in Syria for their sacrifices. Their progress has deprived Da'esh of critical resupply routes as well as locations from which to orchestrate external operations. The isolation of areas held by Da'esh in northern Syria has exerted more pressure on Da'esh, curtailing its offensive capabilities and putting it on the defensive. Now that operations to isolate Raqqa are under way, we must remain focused on increasing the pressure on Da'esh and denying it any capability to plan and execute strikes, including external attacks.
3. At the same time, Iraqi forces have continued their advance into Mosul -- the direct result of strong cooperation between the Iraqi Security Forces and Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga. Mosul's liberation will be a difficult endeavor -- and we commend the heroic efforts of the Iraqi Security Forces, Peshmerga and Ninewa volunteer forces on the front lines. The Coalition will continue its steadfast support to all of these forces operating under Iraqi government command. We underline the importance of compliance with international humanitarian law and the need for all possible efforts to protect civilians. We commend the Government of Iraq for the safeguards it has put into effect to protect civilians in the conflict zone and for its leadership in planning the offensive with a broad array of stakeholders, taking into account the needs for humanitarian assistance, stabilization programs and post-liberation governance in Mosul. We welcome the initiative of the 20 October 2016 ministerial meeting on the stabilization of Mosul held in

Paris to address these priorities and call for strengthened and inclusive governance in Mosul and its surrounding territory.

4. We strongly support the Government of Iraq as it works to defeat Da'esh and put Iraq on the path to stability and prosperity. We reaffirm our support for Prime Minister Abadi as he leads the effort to address governance, improve public services, reduce corruption, decentralize certain federal authorities and ensure the equal rights of all Iraqis irrespective of their religion, sect, gender and ethnicity. We recognize the importance of including women and girls in these efforts, and of creating opportunities for members of vulnerable segments of the population to participate on the national and regional levels. These efforts are fundamental to the overall process of national reconciliation and inclusivity that our Coalition hopes to foster in an Iraq free of Da'esh. We reaffirm our unwavering support to Iraq and remain committed to its unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.
5. Public safety and immediate stabilization in liberated communities are top priorities for our Coalition. With the recent military advances, the number of people needing help is growing, particularly in the populated areas of Iraq. We urge continued support for the UN's Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization and its new Funding Facility for Expanded Stabilization, intended to help local partners in Iraq improve conditions for the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of residents and to promote the economic revival of their communities. We understand the Coalition's program to train additional Iraqi police, led by the Government of Italy, must expand if we are to meet the needs of liberated communities in Iraq. We welcome the increasing numbers of previously displaced Iraqi citizens –over 1,050,000 to date – who have returned to their homes in liberated areas.
6. As in Mosul and elsewhere in this campaign, we stand ready to help liberated communities in Syria recover from the damage and suffering inflicted by Da'esh. The Small Group discussed the stabilization and humanitarian challenges associated with Raqqa and how we can address them. We recognize the unique capacity of the Syria Recovery Trust Fund (SRTF) to help restore essential services in areas of Syria liberated from Da'esh's control, understanding that multinational efforts must be coordinated to meet human needs, provide for public security, and build the capacity of legitimate local authorities for governance of their communities. We also note the United Nations role in post-conflict stabilization in Syria stemming from the February 2016 Syria Donors Conference in London.
7. We continue to be deeply concerned about the growing humanitarian crisis in areas affected by the conflict in Iraq and Syria. We welcome the generous response of host communities in neighboring countries, along with donors at the February 2016 London Conference, and three earlier conferences hosted by Kuwait, all of which have helped the

international community address the standing and unrelenting humanitarian needs of Syrians. We urge donors to fulfill all pledges made at these events. We join the rest of the international community in demanding full and unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance - in accord with UNSCRs 2254 and 2258.

8. No less important are the needs we see in Iraq. The July Pledging Conference in Support of Iraq and the 28 September High Level Meeting in New York on Iraq's Humanitarian Crisis each helped to fund vital humanitarian assistance, counter-IED and stabilization programs. Although the international community committed more than \$2.3 billion, the needs of Iraqis who have suffered as a result of Da'esh's barbarism in Mosul and elsewhere will need further response. Since August, more than 200 United Nations programs have ceased operations in Iraq because of funding shortfalls in the 2016 UN Humanitarian Response Plan. The cost of humanitarian operations in Iraq in 2017 will climb still higher, reflecting the potential for a rise in the number of Iraq's internally-displaced population as a result of the intensified conflict.
9. Our momentum is also building beyond the battlefield as Da'esh continues to be degraded in other significant ways. It continues to lose senior leaders at a high rate. We acknowledge with satisfaction credible reports of growing dissatisfaction within Da'esh ranks and increased desertions. The flow of new recruits has dropped to its lowest level since the conflict began, and the ability of foreign terrorist fighters to travel to and from the conflict area has been significantly curtailed. Da'esh's resource base is shrinking as it loses territory and as Coalition air strikes degrade the resources that fund its operations, such as oil production and cash stores. Under growing financial pressure, Da'esh has cut its fighters' pay by half or more in many areas and resorted to more arbitrary "taxation" and extortion, further undermining its credibility and reducing its attractiveness to recruits. Da'esh has increasingly resorted to conscription to fill its ranks and is constrained in its ability to mount military operations. The international community must ensure that Da'esh is cut off from available resources and cannot sell or trade oil, looted goods and artifacts or any other items of value.
10. We are also gaining unparalleled insight into the inner workings of Da'esh and its global ambitions. Since the liberation of Manbij, Coalition supported forces have collected over 20 terabytes of information that we are using to help dismantle Da'esh's international terrorist network. Improvements in our common understanding of foreign terrorist fighter trends and dynamics have enabled governments to develop more effective policy and operational responses. The Coalition's ability to identify and find individuals associated with Da'esh's terrorist network will be strengthened by INTERPOL's new membership in the Global Coalition. We will continue to enhance our information sharing, including with INTERPOL, to detect, monitor and disrupt Da'esh's external operations, facilitation

networks and foreign terrorist fighters who travel to and from the conflict area. We are likewise determined to disrupt Da'esh's ability to generate, move, and use funds, building on the success of our coordinated efforts to reduce its revenues. Our aim is to disrupt and curb the movement of foreign terrorist fighters, cut off Da'esh from international financial channels and eliminate all financial links with its affiliates outside Iraq and Syria.

11. We welcome the innovative responses by Coalition partners to challenge Da'esh's radical ideology and the propaganda that promotes it. We will continue to work proactively together to undermine Da'esh's violent world-view and build resilience against its attempts to influence global audiences. We are encouraged to see members working with private-sector and community-based entities to counter Da'esh propaganda and better prevent and counter its exploitation of cyber-space to commit acts of terrorism.
12. Given the complexity of the threat posed by Da'esh, the common desire to seek its lasting defeat and the growing number of foreign attacks by Da'esh members or home-grown terrorists inspired by its ideology, our governments must accelerate efforts to enhance information sharing with one another and internally, along with police and intelligence cooperation. We welcome the United Kingdom's plan to host an upcoming meeting further calibrating the Coalition's efforts to decisively address the external threats posed to the larger international community by a wounded Da'esh, lashing out as it spirals closer to defeat. Our collective aim is to prevent terrorist attacks, with an immediate focus on the threat that Da'esh poses to our nations and way of life.
13. The Coalition stands with the Syrian people and supports a genuine political transition based on the 2012 Geneva Communique and UN Security Council Resolution 2254, aimed at establishing an inclusive, pluralistic, and non-sectarian government that represents the will of all Syrians. A negotiated political resolution to the conflict is essential to bring about the lasting defeat of Da'esh. We remain committed to the principles of the negotiation process led by the UN Special Envoy Steffan de Mistura. We condemn all indiscriminate violence and attacks targeting civilians, whether by the regime and its supporters, Da'esh, al-Nusra Front, or other armed groups. We are united in our demand for an end to any indiscriminate bombing by the Syrian regime and its allies, and to the obstruction of access for humanitarian assistance. These actions are contrary to the international consensus in support of the Cessation of Hostilities, and they prevent resumption of the UN-sponsored negotiating process. We call for the regime and its allies to comply fully, immediately and unequivocally with UNSCR 2254 and all other relevant UN Security Council resolutions. We call on all the parties to commit constructively, if the security and humanitarian situation improves, to a political dialogue under United Nations auspices as the only means to achieve peace and preserve the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria. We are ready to step up preparations for stabilization,

rehabilitation, and recovery efforts in Syria, as well as the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons.

14. We welcome Libya as the 68th member of the Global Coalition and stand ready to assist the Government of National Accord (GNA). The international community supports the GNA's efforts to unite security and military forces under its command to defeat Da'esh and other UN-designated terrorist organizations and establish peace, security, and the rule of law for the Libyan people in a united, sovereign Libya. We welcome the success of Libyan forces in fighting Da'esh and other UN-designated terrorist groups, and shrinking Da'esh's control of Libyan territory to a small area. We are prepared to support the population of Sirte in their effort to restore stability to the city and allow the safe return of IDPs. We will continue to give our attention to Libya and the threat Da'esh poses to Libya and its neighbors.
15. We also note the role of the growing number of countries that have availed themselves of the opportunity to join Coalition's working group meetings as observers. Mindful of the many challenges Da'esh poses in diverse regions, we remain committed to sustaining momentum of the Global Coalition and look forward to the next meeting of the Small Group by March 2017.