



Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 47th session

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

6 July 2021

Delivered by R. Shane McNary, Baptist World Alliance

Madam President,

The economic and humanitarian situation in Syria has further deteriorated, with dire impact on the civilian population, and with the global COVID pandemic compounding their problems.

Never have so many Syrians been hungry, impoverished, and lacking essential services as they are today, notwithstanding the decrease in military action.

The broad economic sanctions imposed on Syria are one of the main reasons behind the worsening economic and humanitarian situation. Unilateral Coercive Measures have had an impact on the Syrian population that is disproportionate to their stated objectives. They have hampered the ability of NGOs and Church-based organizations to deliver essential aid and to contribute to a just recovery.

The reduction by the Security Council of humanitarian border-crossings into Syria from four crossings to one has also contributed to the dire humanitarian situation.

We therefore call on the United States and on the European Union to remove sanctions that prevent the Syrian population from accessing basic needs and services, essential health supplies, including access to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, and that inhibit the reconstruction of basic infrastructure destroyed by the ongoing conflict.

We also call on states and 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.

Finally, we call on Security Council members to expand humanitarian aid inflow into Syria, and to guarantee access to all people in need in adherence with humanitarian principles.

Thank you.