Mr. President,

The current Syrian conflict which began in 2011, has thrown the region’s security and stability into chaos and has turned into a serious crisis, which the international community has failed to solve. The killing of more than 470 thousand people and internal and external displacement of 11 million, and the disappearances of 117 thousand are all the consequences of this seven-years conflict. Many homes, schools, hospitals, stores and municipal infrastructures have been destroyed and more than 1 million children do not have access to medical and humanitarian assistance. Terror groups such as ISIS with extensive violation of human rights, has targeted the lives, dignity and properties of the people of the region.

In these conditions, the only way out of this situation is the serious start of peace talks with the participation of all sides and groups in Syria. The immediate halt in armed conflict must be the first step towards the start of such peace talks. The start of peace talks between the government and active political and religious groups in Syria can not only put an end to the violence and conflict in the country, but also be the basis for the elimination of terror groups such as ISIS.

Mr. President,

The ODVV welcomes peace talks in Sochi, Astana, and other attempts by the international community and invites the countries of the region to start multilateral cooperation and talks for the establishment of lasting peace in Syria.

The ODVV calls upon the Council to set up an independent group to help establish temporary ceasefire in the country and start of multilateral talks.