Foreign Minister Westerwelle welcomes "National Coalition" of Syrian opposition groups

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12.11.2012 - Press release■

Meeting in Doha, the Syrian opposition has decided to form a joint body called the "National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces".

Foreign Minister Westerwelle issued the following statement today (12 November 2012):

The creation of a joint platform of the Syrian opposition is an important step and one to be welcomed.

I hope the "National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces" will emerge as a credible political alternative to the Bashar Assad regime.

When we, the Foreign Ministers of the Arab League and the European Union, meet in Cairo on Tuesday, we will discuss how best to support this new joint platform of the Syrian opposition.

Together we must do our utmost to relieve the suffering of the people in Syria and facilitate a peaceful solution to the conflict.