

# Syria/coalition of revolutionary forces and the Syrian opposition

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Statement by M. Laurent Fabius, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Paris, November 11, 2012

I welcome the agreement reached in Doha to create the coalition of revolutionary forces and the Syrian opposition.

I congratulate the President, Moaz al-Khatib, the already appointed Vice-Presidents, Riad Seif and Suhair al-Atassi, and the Secretary-General, Mustafa Sabbagh, on their election to the leadership of this organization, which is destined to coordinate all the forces of the Syrian revolution.

The agreement is a major step in the essential process of unifying the Syrian opposition. France lends it her full support, with a view to this coalition forming a credible alternative to Bashar al-Assad's regime.

I note with satisfaction that the Syrian National Council – led by its President, George Sabra, whom I congratulate on his election – is part of this alliance. I hope it can play its full role in it.

France pledges to work alongside her partners and within the Friends of the Syrian People to encourage international recognition that this new entity represents the Syrian people's aspirations, in line with the commitment made by President François Hollande in August.

France is willing to provide increased assistance to the Syrian people, in close liaison with this new coalition, particularly as part of the support she has been providing for several months to the civilian revolutionary councils.

France – who recognizes the Syrian people's right to defend themselves against the attacks of the criminal regime in Damascus – very much hopes this coalition can be quickly consolidated, enjoying the broadest possible support from Syrians and the international community./.