

Honorable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

“In your homes, God has granted you shelter.” - A verse from the Quran

With this verse from the Holy Quran, we open our statement today, for housing is not merely walls and roofs—it is a human right, a symbol of dignity, safety, and belonging.

I stand before you representing a country devastated by a brutal war waged by the former regime a war that destroyed over 25% of Syria’s housing stock and displaced millions. Today, Syria is rising from the ruins, powered by the resilience and hope of its people, many of whom are returning voluntarily to their liberated towns and villages.

Yet, the challenges remain immense. The need for adequate housing is urgent. We are striving to meet the needs of displaced and returning families, many of whom have endured years of displacement and deprivation. Housing policies, in this context, are not just physical interventions, but key tools for **poverty alleviation, job creation, and dignified recovery.**

In the fight against poverty, we are launching housing rehabilitation projects to reduce rent burdens and offer affordable housing solutions—especially in conflict-affected areas.

In employment, the reconstruction of housing and infrastructure is generating thousands of jobs. We are integrating vocational training programs for youth to equip them with skills and involve them in rebuilding their country.

In climate action, our housing initiatives integrate **sustainable building standards, energy efficiency,** and the use of **local, low-carbon materials**—embracing the principles of “building back better.”

In post-crisis recovery, **housing is essential for enabling safe and voluntary returns.** Our studies indicate that nearly 200,000 housing units need urgent rehabilitation within the first year of return to meet the increasing demand in areas of return from neighboring countries.

We rely on **community-based spatial planning,** low-cost housing renovation programs, and close collaboration with **UN-Habitat,** particularly through the **National Housing Profile,** which lays the groundwork for an evidence-based national housing strategy in Syria.

We are also working to **strengthen housing, land, and property (HLP) rights**, restore damaged property records, and expand access to cadastral services, ensuring legal security and social stability for returnees.

We take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to those supporting the **lifting of sanctions on Syria**, as this step greatly facilitates cooperation, access to financing, and the implementation of integrated housing and development projects.

Finally, we extend a heartfelt call to all partners—governments, humanitarian agencies, and development actors—to stand with Syria in this historic moment. Let us build meaningful partnerships to restore dignity and opportunity to our people.

Syria—home to one of humanity's oldest civilizations—has the will and strength to rise again. We look forward to your support in this noble mission of national and human recovery.

Thank you.