

Press release on Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov's meeting with Deputy Chairman of the opposition Syrian High Negotiations Committee Khaled al-Mahamid

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On June 22, Special Presidential Representative for the Middle East and Africa and Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov met with Deputy Chairman of the Syrian opposition High Negotiations Committee Khaled al-Mahamid in Dubai at the latter's request.

They exchanged views on a package of issues related to the settlement of the Syrian crisis, in particular, in the context of a series of consultations between the high representatives of Russia, Iran and Turkey, and Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Syria Staffan de Mistura, held recently in Geneva. A number of Syrian opposition representatives, including Khaled al-Mahamid, took part in these consultations.

The Russian representatives emphasised the importance of the consolidated efforts in the Astana format, which are aimed at facilitating the formation, as soon as possible, of a constitutional committee based on the decisions of the Syrian National Congress so that it can begin its work in Geneva on Syrian fundamental law. Importantly, the Syrian Government has already submitted to Mr de Mistura a list of its representatives for the constitutional committee. Meanwhile the Syrian opposition has not yet compiled a similar list that must be inclusive and represent candidates from all major internal and external groups that oppose Damascus.