

**Press stake-out on developments in the de-escalation area of northwestern Syria**

We received a briefing by OCHA on the situation in and around northwestern Syria.

We follow with great concern the intensifying hostilities in northwestern Syria. We condemn the loss of innocent civilian lives, and are alarmed by the displacement of over 150.000 persons as well as the targeting of population centers and civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and schools. We express our deep concern of a potential humanitarian catastrophe in the event of a full-scale military operation in Idlib zone.

We urge all parties to uphold international humanitarian law and protect civilians. We urge the concerned parties to recommit and comply fully with the ceasefire arrangements of the memorandum signed on 17 September 2018.

We reaffirm its commitment to UN efforts and to the UN-led political process.

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By: Belgium / Côte d'Ivoire / Dominican Republic / Equatorial Guinea / France / Germany / Kuwait / Peru / Poland / United Kingdom / United States