

OSE-Syria Mediation process and civil society inclusion: the Civil Society Support Room



27 June 2024



OSE Good Offices & Facilitation of the Political Process

- Mandate based on SCR 2254 (2015)
- Principles:
 - sovereignty, unity, independence, and territorial integrity of Syria
 - Respond to the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people for a just and sustainable peace
- OSE focuses on improving international dialogue and cooperation in support of the Geneva political process, opening the door to a political process in Geneva between the government and the opposition on the implementation of resolution 2254.
- Elements:
 - Nationwide ceasefire and safe, calm and neutral environment
 - Constitution & elections
 - Meaningful participation of women
 - Compliance with international law, protection of civilians and humanitarian access
 - Release of those arbitrarily detained and information on the missing
 - safe and voluntary refugee and IDP returns and building conditions for such returns

Constitutional Committee

- Composition: large body 150 members, small body 45 – equal number of members nominated by three groups: Government of Syria, Syrian Negotiation Commission & Civil Society
- Small body convened eight times in Geneva (last session June 2022)
- Small body in charge of preparing and drafting the constitutional proposals while the large body shall adopt them
- Special Envoy is continuing his efforts to facilitate consensus on a venue for the next session

Humanitarian Task Force (HTF)

- Includes 26 Member states/organizations, meets every four weeks in Geneva
- Facilitates the implementation:
 - “rapid safe and unhindered access throughout Syria...” (article 12)
 - And the immediate cessation of “attacks against civilians and civilian objects...” as well as broader compliance with international humanitarian law (article 13)

Detainees, Abductees & Missing Persons

- One of the Special Envoy's key priorities
- Two-track approach:
 1. Direct engagement with the Syrian parties
 2. Active participation of OSE in the Astana Working Group
- Promote efforts and steps towards clarifying the fate of missing persons
 - Support to the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in Syria (IIMP)

Elections

- Holding of parliamentary elections on 15 July 2024 by the Government of Syria in line with the current Constitution is no substitute for the UN-facilitated political process.
- Resolution 2254 envisages that any sustainable political solution needs to be based around credible inclusive elections that are in line with a new, agreed constitution.

Women Advisory Board (WAB)

- Created in 2016
- Partnership with UN WOMEN and DPPA
- 15 members (rotated every 3 years)
- Ensure the meaningful participation of Syrian women of all elements of the political process, including a gendered perspective on conflict and its resolution

Civil Society Support Room (CSSR)

- Created in 2016
- More than a thousand interlocutors
- **Lead:** Office of the Special Envoy for Syria
- **Implementer:** swisspeace
- **Donors:** Switzerland, European Union, Germany

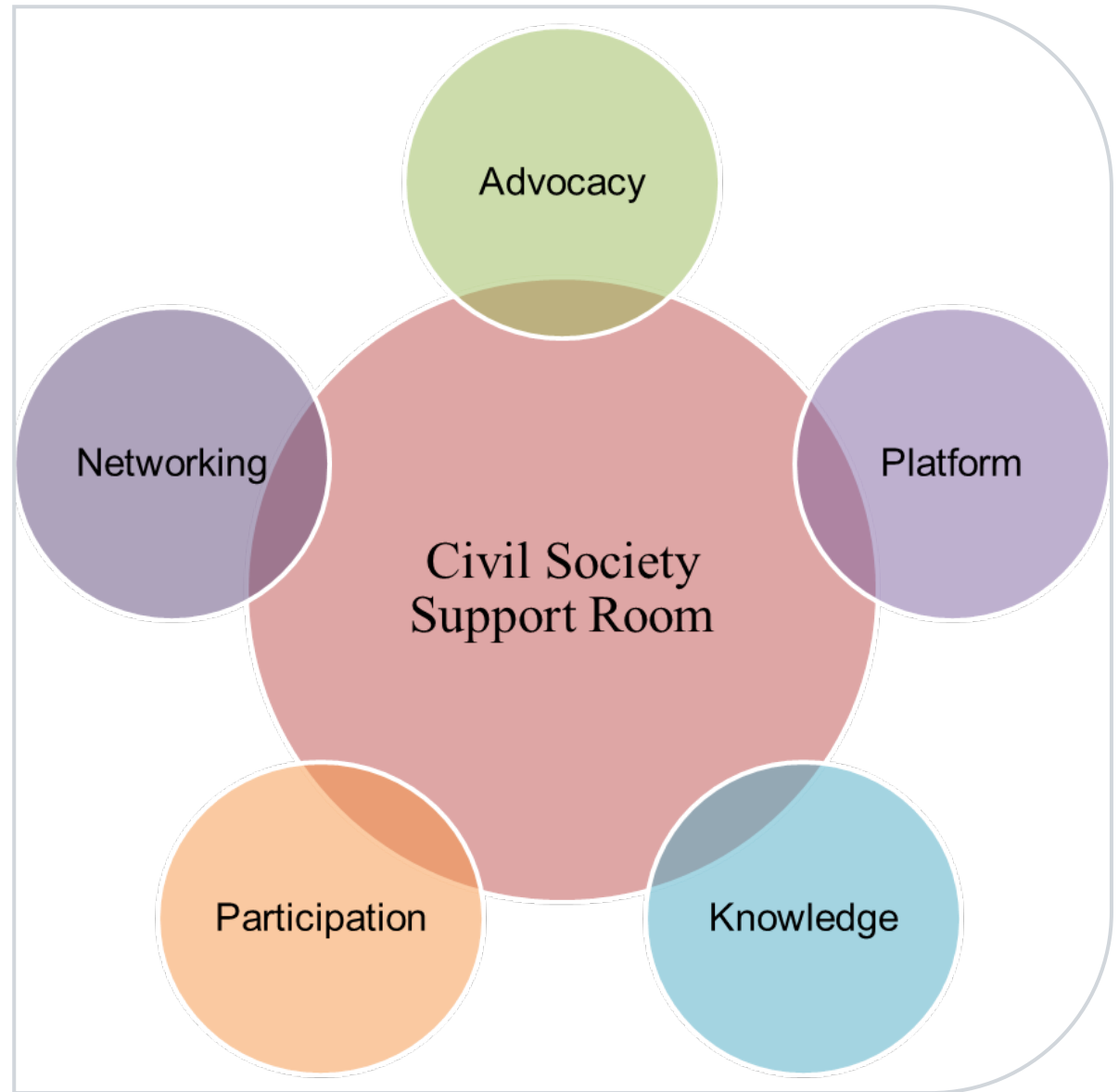
Objectives

1. **Include the voices of civil society in the UN-facilitated mediation process**
2. **Gradually pursue inclusivity as core principle and practice in the mediation process as per SCR 2254**
3. **Provide Syrian civil society actors with a safe space for dialogue across the political divide**
4. **Provide opportunities for advocacy with international actors and the UN on issues that are considered as priorities by civil society**
5. **Ensure the SE and the UN have adequate insights from 'the ground' on issues that are central to the political process**

Activities

- Engagement with the Special Envoy and political team on substantive issues
- Regular civil society consultations and meetings **in Geneva**
- Outreach and regional consultation meetings in **Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq and Germany**
- Side events to all Brussels conferences
- Advocacy session with Member States of the International Syria Support Group, and donors
- Networking and capacity building opportunities on specific thematic issues

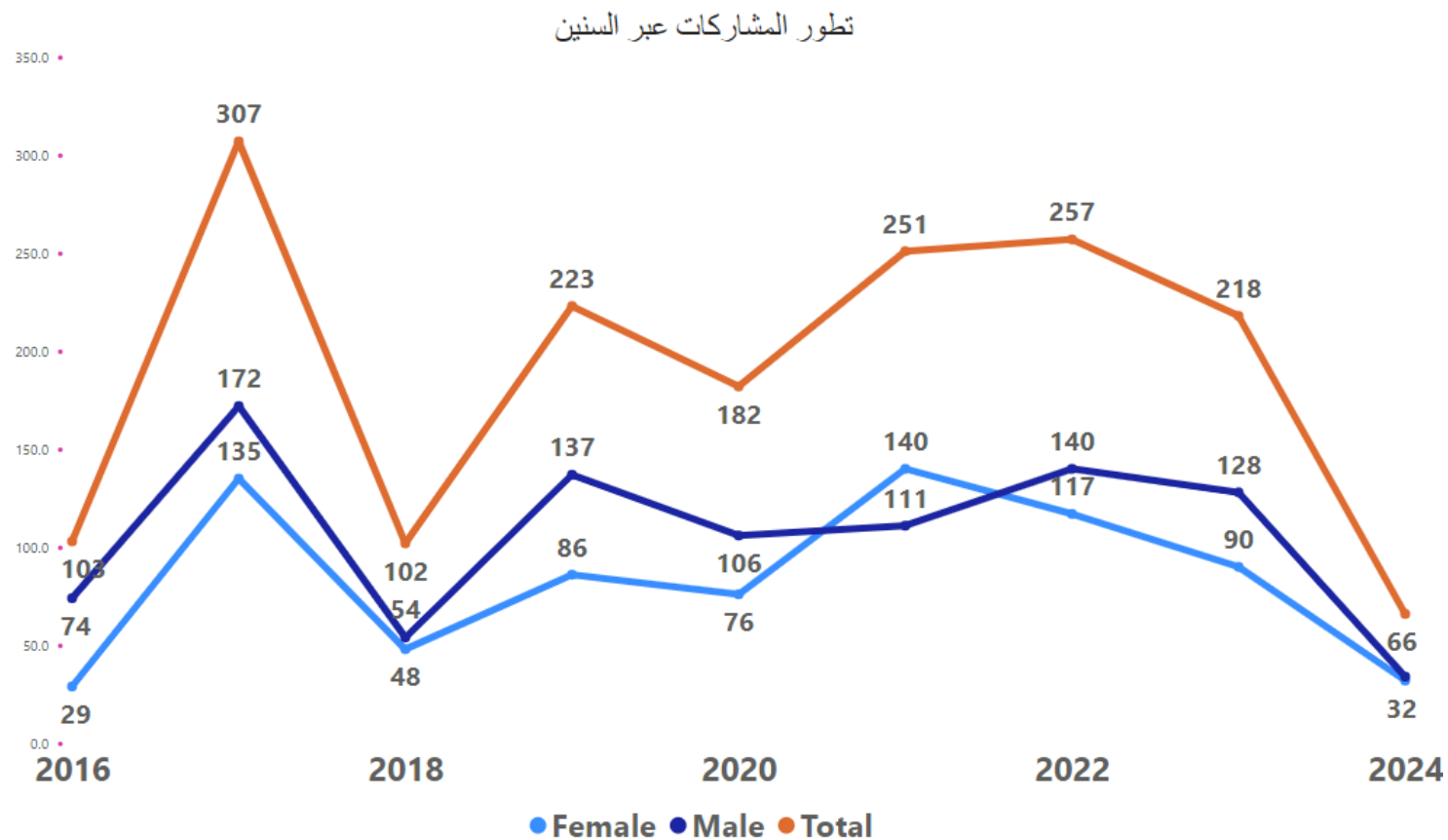
Functions



Impact

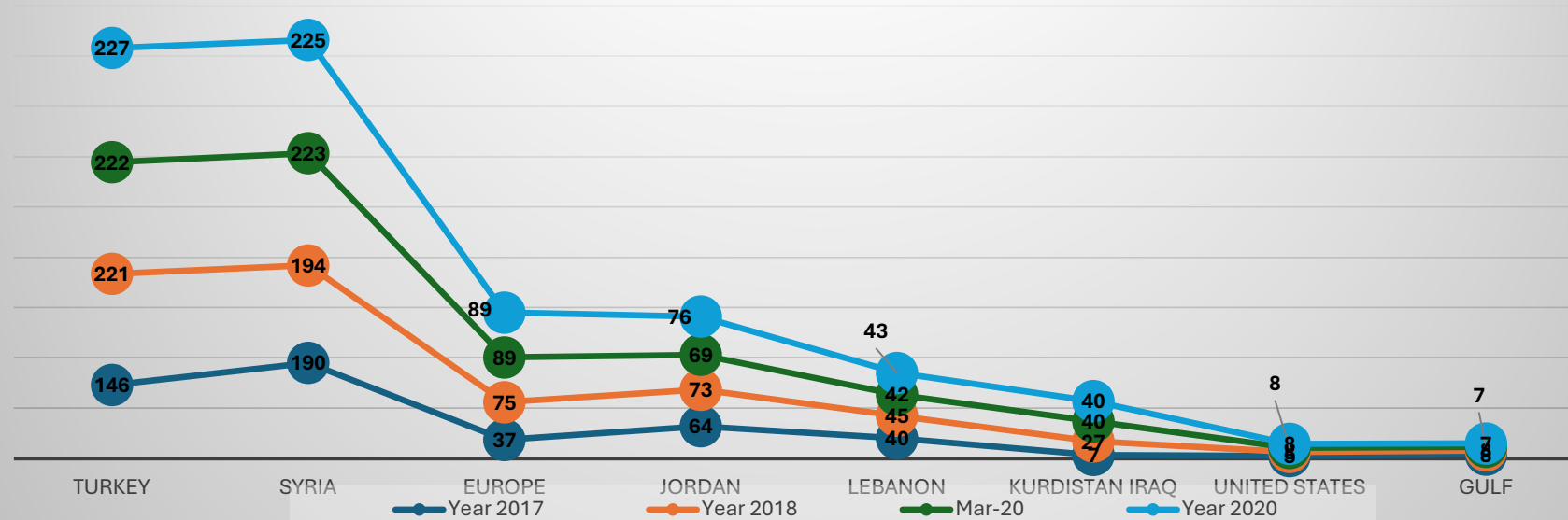
- Fostering a robust and inclusive dialogue platform that amplifies the voices of diverse community members across Syria. So far, over 1100 civil society interlocutors have engaged with the CSSR.
- Ensuring a diverse and balanced participation in terms of gender, age, thematic expertise, political leanings and geographical diversity to promote an inclusive and more legitimate political solution that respond to the aspiration of Syrians.
- Conveying effectively the voices and concerns of Syrian women, men and youth through the monthly Security Council Briefings.
- Providing regular advocacy opportunities with ISSG and donors in Geneva and Brussels, facilitating continuous dialogue, resources and support for resolving the Syrian conflict
- Promoting thematic discussions on key issues have been instrumental in developing policy recommendations on specific topics

Gender Balance



Geographic Participation over time

Progression in overall participation in CSSR



Thank you!

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