

## **The Elders welcome the outcome of the London donor conference for Syria and urge a renewed commitment to the peace process**

**5 February 2016**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

International talks on Syria, held in London and Geneva over the past few days, have underlined the imperative need for all parties to the Syrian conflict to put the needs of the Syrian people first, The Elders said today.

[Kofi Annan](#), Chair of The Elders, said:

*"I am encouraged by the outcome of the London donor conference. The financial pledges made and the broad commitment to ensure children's education and help create jobs for Syrian refugees living in the region is welcome. At the same time, we all know that only an immediate end to the conflict and an agreed political solution will staunch the bleeding."*

The Elders believe that a determined and sustained effort to attain peace is the only way to protect the people of Syria. They urge all parties to the conflict to support the efforts of the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Syria as he seeks to secure a peaceful and lasting resolution of the conflict.

[Lakhdar Brahimi](#), member of The Elders and former UN Special Envoy for Syria, commented:

*"It's time to put an immediate halt to all fighting. Far too many lives have already been lost or destroyed. Those responsible for the fighting should realise that that route will lead nowhere. If the latest peace talks convened by the Special Envoy are to have any chance of making progress, conditions on the ground must improve in the coming days and weeks."*

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### **About The Elders**

The Elders are independent leaders using their collective experience and influence for peace, justice and human rights worldwide. The group was founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007.

The Elders are [Martti Ahtisaari](#), [Kofi Annan](#) (Chair), [Ela Bhatt](#), [Lakhdar Brahimi](#), [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#) (Deputy Chair), [Fernando Henrique Cardoso](#), [Jimmy Carter](#), [Hina Jilani](#), [Graça Machel](#), [Mary Robinson](#) and [Ernesto Zedillo](#).

[Desmond Tutu](#) is an honorary Elder.

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### **Find out more**

For biographies of the Elders, blogs, photos, videos and more information about their work please go to [www.theElders.org](http://www.theElders.org).

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