



### [Syria Marks the One-Year Anniversary Since the Fall of the Assad Regime](#)

Earlier this week, Syrians jubilantly gathered in massive numbers across the country to mark the one-year anniversary of the fall of the Assad regime. Syrian President Ahmed Al-Sharaa addressed large crowds in the capital city of Damascus, declaring that the nation had “turned the page from a dark chapter” and vowing to build an inclusive and stable state while ensuring accountability through a process of transitional justice for those who committed crimes under the former despot. Now, over a full year after the deposing of Assad, Syria is in the midst of a fragile but hopeful transitional period. The country has made significant strides towards international reintegration as well as progress aimed at economic recovery. Under the new government, diplomatic relations have been restored with major global actors including the United States, and many longstanding sanctions have been lifted or suspended in an effort to aid economic and societal reconstruction. While there are certainly also challenges that lie ahead, Syria sits at a pivotal juncture. Many have outlined that it possesses an opportunity to create a stable future, but that the success of this will largely depend on its ability to secure sustained international support for the monumental task of rebuilding the nation.

There have been indicators that recent progress has been made in various areas. Just last month in November, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported that the Syrian economy is showing signs of recovery. Additionally, the World Bank has forecasted overall growth for the country’s economy this year in 2025. Much of this has been attributed to the easing of sanctions, improved consumer and investor sentiment, the return of refugees who fled the repression and violence under the previous regime, and the new government’s monetary policies. Furthermore, key international economic organizations like the IMF have committed to providing Syria with intensive engagement and technical assistance to help improve its fiscal frameworks. Domestically, efforts have been initiated to restore essential services, including improvements in electricity production and infrastructure renovations. With respect to the former, major population centers such as Damascus, Aleppo, and Hama have been receiving substantial improvements in electricity supply due to expansive structural repairs. Regarding the latter, observers have highlighted the renovation of over 800 schools around the country and that additional work was continuing on at least this many more throughout Syria.

Since the fall of the Assad regime last December, Syria has undergone a rapid and significant international reintegration as well – shifting from a pariah state under Assad to one with

expanding relations among key actors on the global stage. This reintegration process has been marked by the lifting of most sanctions and the re-establishment of diplomatic ties. Firstly, Syria's membership in the Arab League was fully restored back in May, after being suspended in 2011. This represented a noteworthy regional shift and set the stage for individual nations to restore ties. Additionally, Syrian President Al-Sharaa has engaged in high-level diplomacy, including a momentous visit to the White House last month – the first of its kind – and a historic address to the United Nations General Assembly in September. Both of these in particular demonstrated the extent of Syria's re-emergence on the world stage following decades of isolation under Assad. On top of this, the United States, the European Union, and others have dismantled most of the economic sanctions that have crippled Syria for years. The U.S. formally terminated its main Syria sanctions program in June, while new waivers were issued for the Caesar Act sanctions – with full repeal pending in Congress. The European Union also lifted most economic sanctions, removing bans on oil imports, investment in the energy sector, and banking restrictions.

Ultimately, the end of decades of repressive rule has created an opportunity for building a stable and inclusive Syria. A transitional government has been established, a five-year interim constitution has been adopted, and efforts have been made towards economic recovery and international reintegration. Moving forward, some of the helpful continued steps that the new government can take include setting clear timelines and metrics for measuring incremental improvements, securing the funds and international support needed for reconstruction initiatives, and alleviating economic and humanitarian conditions for a population devastated by years of conflict and repression. All of these can play a major role in bolstering the legitimacy of the government among ordinary Syrians and therefore maximize the prospects of a successful transition and a stable Syria.