



## **Pugwash Consultation on Syria**

### **Summary**

**27 April 2014**

**Green Cross International Headquarters,  
Geneva, Switzerland**

At the request of Syrian civil society groups Pugwash convened an informal private roundtable consultation on Syria, exploring issues related to humanitarian access (with a particular focus on the situation around Homs) and also the role of the moderate opposition in bringing the crisis to an end.

The discussion centred on facilitating an initiative by the people of Homs to negotiate a ceasefire in their city and an end to the sieges of the Old City and Al-Waar district. The main elements of this proposal include:

- Opposition fighters should leave the city with their arms;
- Government forces should stop their attacks on the city;
- Food and water would be immediately allowed into the city;
- A committee of citizens would be elected to administrate the city, and to help resume normal economic life, while acknowledging the authority of the central government.
- Security would be provided by joint patrols of opposition forces and the army (not National Defence Force militia) armed only with small arms;
- Monitors would be provided, preferably under a UN Chapter VI mandate to allow maintenance of a ceasefire and demilitarisation deal.

A broad discussion examined these proposals, and the steps that would need to be taken internationally to help move them forward. Participants felt that an agreement of this nature might be a model for Homs, but also for other cities in Syria.

Pugwash agreed to work to assist contacts between Syrian civil society groups and governments and international organisations that can facilitate the agreement of a ceasefire as described above between government and opposition forces.

Pugwash was also asked to continue its series of meetings on the Syrian crisis.

[NB: This discussion happened before the evacuation of the Old City of Homs under terms very different to those under discussion at this meeting]