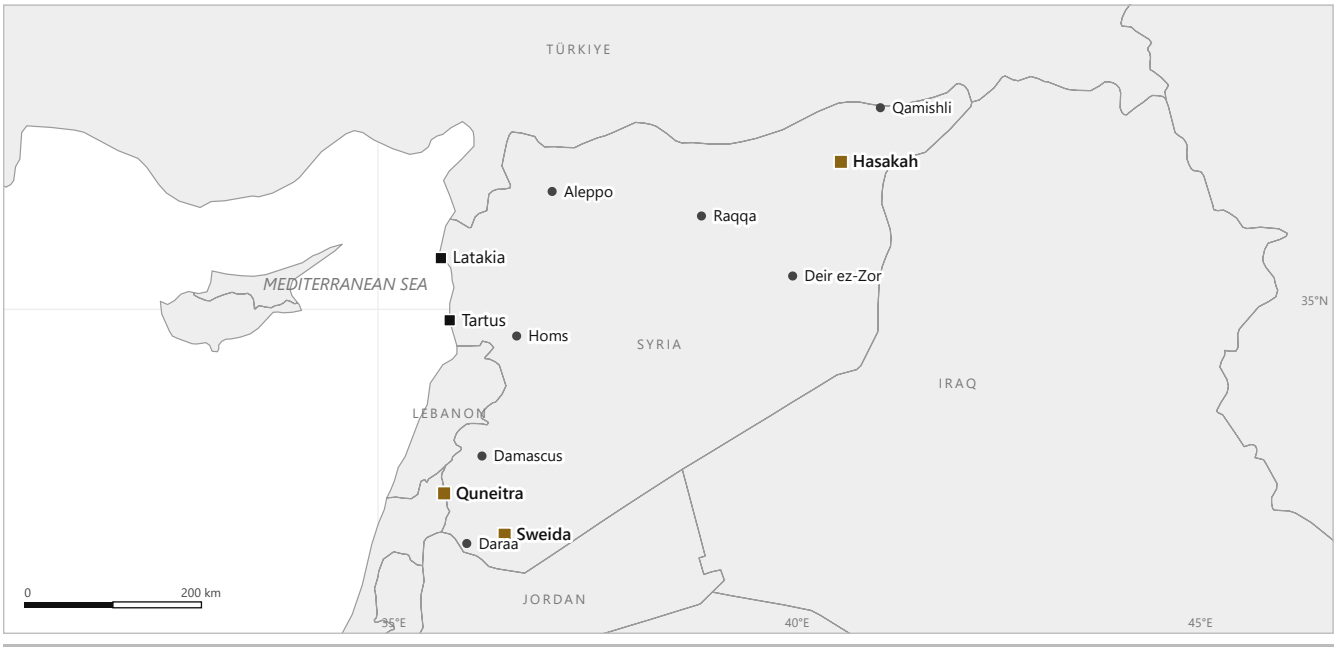
2027

STRATEGIC OUTLOOK · PREVIEW EXCERPT

SYRIA

A state built ahead of its instruments

Syria in 2027 — consolidation by practice, a constitution still unwritten, a south still held, and alignment standing in for finance



LOCATOR MAP · NATURAL EARTH · PLACES AT AREA LEVEL · BOUNDARIES ARE NOT AN ENDORSEMENT OF ANY CLAIM

DOCUMENT	VERSION	RESEARCH CUTOFF	PUBLISHED	JUDGMENTS	OVERALL CONFIDENCE
VO-2027-SY	1.0	15 November 2026	17 November 2026	7 · frozen	moderate

Preview excerpt. This file contains the cover, the executive assessment, the judgment table and the publication record of the full document. The complete publication adds the position entering 2027, the evidence and evaluation rule for each judgment, the alternative pathways, the cross-system implications, the monitoring framework and the full source register.

01 EXECUTIVE ASSESSMENT

A state built ahead of its instruments

CENTRAL JUDGMENT MODERATE

Syria enters 2027 with the question of who governs largely settled and the question of how still unwritten. Vigil expects a year of consolidation by practice rather than by text: the north-east holds without its civilian files closed, Sweida and the Israeli-held positions in the south stay outside Damascus's writ, and alignment with Riyadh, Ankara and a retained Russian foothold substitutes for reconstruction finance that does not arrive at scale. The principal risk is not collapse but an unmanaged shock — a price shock, a southern rupture or entanglement in a regional war.

The dated acts that define the starting position are well documented; almost every arrangement that matters for 2027 rests on unpublished terms. The principal uncertainties are an Israeli government still being formed and regional wars Syria has so far stayed out of.

Syria enters 2027 as a transition that has decided who governs and not yet how. The constitutional declaration of 13 March 2025 set a five-year term[1]. The People's Assembly first sat on 12 July 2026[2], on a thirty-month term that is renewable until a permanent constitution is adopted[3,4]. By 15 November 2026 no drafting body, draft constitution or election law had been published[1]. ESTABLISHED

US forces handed over their last major base on 16 April[5,6], and the Syrian Democratic Forces announced their dissolution as an independent force on 25 August[7]. The January agreement behind that act provided for the handover of crossings, oil and gas fields, prisons and camps[8]; what has followed is implementation by officials' account, not by published instrument[9]. Sweida remains largely outside Damascus's control[10], and a UN commission described Israeli military activity on Syrian territory as ‘increasingly sustained and entrenched’[11].

The legal obstacles to recovery fell away faster than the financial ones. Washington rescinded the state-sponsor-of-terrorism designation on 24 August 2026[12]; the Security Council had delisted the president in November 2025[13]; EU listings now cover persons and entities tied to the former government and run to 1 June 2027[14]. The World Bank's central reconstruction estimate is US$216 billion, nearly ten times estimated 2024 output[15]. Against that, the largest bilateral package identified for the autumn was more than US$403 million in Saudi concessional loans[16], and the IMF describes the banking system as ‘highly dysfunctional’[17]. VIGIL ASSESSMENT The binding constraint has moved from sanctions law to bankability.

Damascus is filling that gap with alignment. It signed a defence-ministry agreement with Saudi Arabia on 4 November whose terms are undisclosed[16]; an unnamed official source said it could later grow into accession to the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement[18]. Russia keeps Khmeimim and Tartus under an August memorandum whose three-month transition lapsed without a published outcome[19]. Each arrangement exists; none has a public text.

Vigil's judgments for 2027 follow from that pattern. Vigil expects the August dissolution to hold, Israeli forces to remain beyond the 1974 line, and Russian personnel to remain on the coast on unpublished terms. Vigil does not expect a permanent constitution to be adopted, Sweida's seats to be filled, Caesar Act sanctions to be reinstated or an IMF financing arrangement to be approved. Vigil considers it plausible that a constitution-drafting body is named and that Syria accedes to the Makkah Agreement. VIGIL ASSESSMENT

The domestic margin is thin. A fuel-price rise in September 2026 produced some of the most widespread protests since the fall of the Assad government, and subsidised diesel followed within days[20]. The UN's Deputy Special Envoy told the Security Council in October that fuel costs had pushed food prices up by about 30 per cent[21]. A government that needs external money and has conceded to the street once has limited room to absorb a second shock.

Three developments would change this assessment: a signed Israel–Syria text with a withdrawal timetable; a recurrence of the July 2025 pattern of violence in Sweida; or an announced deployment of Syrian combat units to the Saudi–Yemeni front, which no government had confirmed by 14 November[22]. CONDITIONAL

PRINCIPAL DRIVERS

DRIVER 01

Practice outruns text

Integration, basing and defence cooperation proceed by announcement and officials' description. The regional-corps reorganisation had no published establishing instrument after fourteen consecutive weekly reviews[23]. VIGIL ASSESSMENT The absence of texts looks like method, not delay, and leaves each arrangement revisable by the stronger party.

DRIVER 02

Finance, not sanctions, is the ceiling

With the principal US and UN restrictions removed, recovery depends on banks, legacy debt and data. The IMF has agreed technical assistance, not lending[17]. The first letter of credit in fourteen years, announced by the central bank in October, is a start, not a channel[24].

DRIVER 03

The south is decided outside Damascus

Israel holds positions on the Syrian side of the line and has conditioned withdrawal on diplomatic gains[25]. Jordan struck Daraa and Sweida in October 2026 and Damascus said it was not notified[26]. Sweida's status is entangled with both.

DRIVER 04

Regional wars at the margin

The war on Iran that began in February 2026 raised energy prices[20] and froze the Israel track[25]. Separately, fighting between the Houthis and Saudi-backed forces escalated in the summer, and Riyadh has turned to Damascus[27]. Syria has stayed out of both.

MOST CONSEQUENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN VIEW

A drafting body named from above

Plausible, not expected. The president has said the parliament will be tasked with forming a committee to draft a constitution[4]; nothing opened for this document fixes when.

Russian presence regularised without published terms

Moscow says intergovernmental agreements are being prepared and hopes for signature by the end of 2026[28]. Vigil expects continued presence and no published text; signature is plausible, not assured.

Accession to the Makkah Agreement

Plausible, not expected. Damascus's unnamed source describes accession as a possible later stage[18], and the agreement is reported as open to other regional countries[29].

PRINCIPAL UNCERTAINTIES

WHAT IS NOT KNOWN

- What the Saudi defence agreement commits Syrian units to beyond training inside the kingdom: no text is public and Saudi officials have not commented[22].
- What policy toward Syria the next Israeli government adopts; the mandate to form one went to an opposition leader[30].

— Whether any deadline binds the constitution: one outlet reports an end-2028 date[2]; two others describe a term renewable until a constitution is adopted[3,4].

CONFIDENCE — THE ANALYTICAL BASIS

HIGH MODERATE LOW

How well sourced and how contested the evidence is. High is the quietest mark by design.

EXPECTATION — THE OUTCOME

EXPECTED PLAUSIBLE NOT EXPECTED

Vigil's judgment for the stated horizon. Never a number.

EVIDENCE STATUS

ESTABLISHED ATTRIBUTED VIGIL ASSESSMENT UNRESOLVED CONDITIONAL

What kind of statement a sentence is. The louder the mark, the less is claimed.

02 FINAL JUDGMENT TABLE

The 2027 judgments at a glance

ID	JUDGMENT	EXPECTATION · HORIZON	BASIS	SUPPORTED IF
VO27-SY-01	Vigil does not expect a permanent constitution to be adopted or put to a referendum by 31 December 2027. Vigil considers it plausible that a constitution-drafting body with named members is constituted by a published instrument by that date.	NOT EXPECTED By 31 December 2027	MODERATE	No permanent constitution has been adopted by the People's Assembly or put to a referendum by 31 December 2027. The drafting-body limb is recorded separately, as occurred only if an instrument naming the body's members has been published by the official gazette or the state news agency.
VO27-SY-02	Vigil does not expect Sweida's vacant People's Assembly seats to be filled, or state institutions to resume authority in Sweida city under an agreed arrangement, by 31 December 2027.	NOT EXPECTED By 31 December 2027	MODERATE	On 31 December 2027 no member for Sweida has been sworn in to the People's Assembly, and no published arrangement accepted by representatives of the province has returned state police or governorate institutions to Sweida city.
VO27-SY-03	Vigil expects Israeli forces to remain at positions on the Syrian side of the 1974 ceasefire line on 31 December 2027, as recorded in the UN Secretary-General's reporting on UNDOF, whether or not a security text has been signed.	EXPECTED On 31 December 2027	MODERATE	The Secretary-General's last UNDOF report covering the second half of 2027 records six or more Israeli positions on the Syrian side of the line — more than half of the eleven counted in 2026. If UNDOF reporting has ceased, the latest UN report describing the Israeli presence is used; if none exists, the judgment is recorded as not assessable.
VO27-SY-04	Vigil expects the August 2026 dissolution to hold through 31 December 2027 — no former SDF formation re-declares itself an independent force and no sustained hostilities resume between Damascus and former SDF formations — while at least one of the judiciary, internal-security and returns files still lacks a published transfer instrument.	EXPECTED Through 31 December 2027	MODERATE	No former SDF formation has declared itself independent of the Defence Ministry; no clashes between government forces and formations identified as former SDF have been reported on more than seven consecutive days; and at least one of the three named files has no published decree, ministerial decision or handover protocol.
VO27-SY-05	Vigil expects Russian military personnel to remain at both Khmeimim and Tartus on 31 December 2027, and does not expect either government to publish the full text of an agreement governing the sites by then. Signature of an intergovernmental agreement in the interval is plausible, not assured.	EXPECTED On 31 December 2027	MODERATE	In the fourth quarter of 2027 Russian military personnel are reported at both sites by either government, a UN document or an international wire service, and neither government has published the full text of an agreement governing the sites. Whether an agreement was signed is recorded separately.
VO27-SY-06	Vigil does not expect the United States to reinstate Caesar Act sanctions on Syria, or the IMF Executive Board to approve a financing arrangement for Syria, by 31 December 2027.	NOT EXPECTED By 31 December 2027	MODERATE	By 31 December 2027 the United States has not reinstated Caesar Act sanctions, by presidential determination or by statute, and the IMF Executive Board has approved no lending arrangement or emergency financing for Syria.
VO27-SY-07	Vigil considers it plausible that Syria formally accedes to the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement by 31 December 2027; it does not expect an announced deployment of Syrian combat units inside Yemen by that date.	PLAUSIBLE By 31 December 2027	LOW	By 31 December 2027 Syria and at least one member have announced that Syria has signed or acceded to the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement — counted when the parties announce it, whether or not the Agreement has itself entered into force, which VO27-IG-05 scores separately — and no deployment of Syrian combat units inside Yemen has been announced by Damascus or reported by two international wire services.

03 PUBLICATION RECORD

Edition, version and forecast-freeze status

SERIES	Vigil Consilium — 2027 Strategic Outlook (annual edition VO-2027)
DOCUMENT	VO-2027-SY · Syria · version 1.0
RESEARCH CUTOFF	15 November 2026
PUBLISHED	17 November 2026
FORECAST FREEZE	Frozen on 17 November 2026. The 7 judgments above are recorded verbatim in the public forecast register (VO27-SY-01, VO27-SY-02, VO27-SY-03, VO27-SY-04, VO27-SY-05, VO27-SY-06, VO27-SY-07) and are not edited after publication.
FORECAST REGISTER	https://vigilconsilium.com/assessments/2027/register/
CORRECTIONS	None recorded. A correction is dated and added here and in the register; the original text of a judgment is never replaced.
REVIEWS	Quarterly evidence reviews during 2027 and a final evaluation after each horizon closes are published in the register, separately from the frozen text.
PUBLISHER	Vigil Consilium · vigilconsilium.com · contact@vigilconsilium.com

© Vigil Consilium 2026. This preview may be shared freely with attribution. Research, not advice: nothing here is investment, legal, security or travel advice.