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From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
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From: OpsNewsTicker
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To: NEWS-Mahogany; Syria Unrest
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Subject: Syrian opposition agrees on national council's executive committee (Xinhua)

ISTANBUL (Xinhua) -- Syria's opposition agreed in principle Sunday to form a seven-member executive committee for their national council following three days of deliberations behind closed doors in Turkey's largest city of Istanbul.

The council will consist of three main bodies, which include a general assembly and a general secretariat that will be headed by an executive committee, said Bassmah Ghodmani, a member of the council.

Ghodmani said the executive committee will have a rotating presidency but exact details and bylaws of the council are still being prepared.

The council has stated its basic principles consist of toppling the Bashar Al-Assad regime, commitment to peaceful nature of the revolution, opposition to any foreign intervention and maintaining the national unity of Syria.

Syrian dissidents first announced the aim of forming the council in Istanbul on Aug. 23. On Sept. 15, the council announced its makeup with 140 members from both within and outside Syria comprising various sections of the Syrian society.

In August, the United States and the European Union called on Assad to step down and announced sanctions against the country which has been gripped by unrest for six months.

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