GULFSANDS MEETS PRESIDENT SHARAA IN LONDON

Earlier this week I was delighted to lead a **Gulfsands** delegation including **Sir Alan Duncan**, **Mark Cutis** and **Andrew Morris** to meet with Syrian President Ahmed Al Sharaa at London's iconic **Reform Club**.

During a private roundtable discussion, held alongside a well-attended reception hosted by the Syria Britain Business Council ("**SBBC**") and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office ("**FCDO**"), and sponsored by Gulfsands, I was able to engage directly with President Sharaa and reaffirmed Gulfsands' commitment to resuming operations in Block 26 in Syria as a way to support Syria's economic recovery.

I also expressed my appreciation that, after 15 years, we have recently been able to regain access to Block 26 - an important milestone for Gulfsands and for Syria. This development provides a strong foundation for the recommencement of operations and investment.

We are now back on the ground in Syria, working closely with **SPC** to accelerate towards a full resumption of activities.

We also discussed that at a time of heightened energy uncertainty, diversified supply beyond the traditional choke points like the Strait of Hormuz is critical – with Syria having the potential to become a new world energy hub.

President Sharaa encouraged attendees to focus on the opportunities presented by Syria's new era, rather than the challenges of the past, and invited all present to become part of history by playing an active role in contributing to Syria's revival.

The broader event was a great success, bringing together a distinguished group of guests from both the Syrian and British business communities, and reflecting a strong sense of optimism about Syria's future.

Gulfsands looks forward to continuing its contribution to Syria's recovery and sustainable development.