



Brussels 8 September 2015. Staffan de Mistura, the UN Special Envoy on Syria says that talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran are a key to stop the war in Syria.

At an UNRISD press briefing in Brussels yesterday, de Mistura called for a regional conference on the model of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), which led to the Helsinki accords in 1975.

“Let’s not hide behind it. If Saudi Arabia and Iran would finally start talking to each other and talking about something that could be a Helsinki type of arrangement... the conflict will last one more month - not one year not ten years. Because Oxygen will disappear from the conflict.”

De Mistura pointed out that Saudi Arabia and Iran have “substantial influence” in Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq and Syria and said that talks between the two could contribute to ending the conflict provided the two countries were not alone at the table and had a “real discussion.”

