

The Forum for the 21st century **concerning the Syrian civil war**

Position paper of The League of Arab States to the 1st draft

The League of Arab States commends great thanks to The Forum for the 21st century for inviting us on the international conference concerning the Syrian civil war and issues related. We have pleasure in announcing that the Deputy of The League of Arab States accepts the invitation and hereby kindly affirms his participation.

The problematic of Syrian conflict is one of the most discussed topics within the Arab League due to the fact that the Leagues' main interest is helping actively the Arab world grow economically and culturally, while finding solutions to resolve conflicts both within the League and outside of it.

The League of Arab States, commonly recognised also as Arab League, is an organisation consisting of independent Arab states on the territory of northern and north-eastern part of Africa and southwest Asia. Our organisation was established by signature of the Alexandria Protocol, in Cairo on 22 March 1945, and nowadays counts 21 members.¹ They are bound by the Arab Charter on Human Rights adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States on 22 May 2004 and also by the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, signed at Cairo on 22 April 1998.

The League of Arab States concurs the conclusion of UN General Assembly Security Council which proves, on the basis of the evidence obtained during the investigation of the Ghouta incident on the 21 August 2013, that chemical weapons have been used in the ongoing conflict between the parties in the Syrian Arab Republic, on a relatively large scale. Furthermore, Arab League proclaims and also reminds all that any use of chemical weapons by any side, under any circumstances, is a violation of international law.

Due to recent uprising and civil war and as a result of the government repression of political opponents, the Arab League suspended the membership of Syria in November 2011 and brokered a peace agreement with the Assad regime, calling upon an end to hostilities and the opening of negotiations within opposing groups.

¹ Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Positions of The Arab League maintained towards the points presented in 1st draft

1. The hostilities are required to stop

From the inception of the Syrian crisis, The League of Arab States has been calling for an end to violence and has promised to provide all forms of political and financial support. The League has already, in February 2012, drafted a resolution that proposed the creation of a joint Arab-United Nation peacekeeping mission to supervise implementation of a cease-fire between the Syrian government and opposition fighters.

2. The end of hostilities is to be assured with a weapons embargo

The Arab League endorses UN Security Council Members to overcome their differing views and to adopt necessary resolutions against the perpetrators of the crime. We greatly appreciate the high-level diplomatic activity between Russia and United States regarding Syria, especially their agreement on elimination of chemical arms stockpile, in September 2013.

3. Free and equal election shall decide the future of the country

The League has already taken concrete steps towards democracy in Syria. In November 2011, we drafted a plan that invited the formation of a national unity government to pave the way for elections. Therefore we endorse exceedingly the arrangement of equal elections. However we deplore that, accordingly to cultural and traditional customs, the proposal of election for every citizen will be very difficult to implement.

4. Humanitarian inspections must be allowed

We assume that UN should control merely delicate sectors of armour-steel industry. Other public administration departments should be under national authority inspection. Syrian observation and control teams could be regularly reporting to the UN to maintain continuity of a transparent security situation monitoring.

5. Humanitarian aid must be given

The League endorses the idea of furnishing any form of aid to concerning region. Whereas to prevent inefficient allocation, abuses or corruption we recommend to develop coordinated working group that will assure a transparency among international donors.

6. A memorandum must be signed

The League of Arab States is highly opened to signature of Convention that can contribute to a truce in Syria.

The League of Arab States repeats its thanks to the Forums' invitation and reaffirms the participation on the conference. The League would like to take this opportunity to express the hope that negotiations will result in a gradual restoration of truce in Syria. We look forward to further cooperation and belief that our discussions will reach an agreement confirmed by a signature of common memorandum. Should you require any supplementary information, please feel free to contact us by providing a written statement.