

Forum for the 21st

Century

Global Security Issues Section

Syrian Crisis

The Peoples Republic of China would like to thank the Forum for 21st Century for initiating the discussion and organizing the conference on the crisis on Syria. At the same time we express our full support towards resolving this crisis that has been an influential part of this region for too long. The PRC stresses that the situation in Syria has shifted into mater where the international community must take action to secure a future for this region. After an in-depth analysis of the draft proposed by the Forum for 21st Century let us annotate it and include our suggestions as well.

Notes:

- The People's Republic of China and the Syrian Arab Republic established diplomatic relations on August 1, 1956. Over the past 50 years and more, China-Syria friendly relations witnessed steady development. The two sides maintained close exchanges at various levels and conducted friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation in political, economic, trade, cultural and other fields. China has an embassy in Damascus and Syria has an embassy in Beijing.
- The People's Republic of China is worried about the possibility that militant Islamists may gain control in Syria once the current regime is toppled. This fear is further aggravated by the rise of Islamists in countries like Libya and Egypt after the fall of Qaddafi and Mubarak respectively. Islamist groups have already pledged support to rebels in Syria. Some of these, such as Jabhat al-Nusra and the Islamic State in Iraq, have both been linked to al Qaeda and have voiced their keenness to see an Islamic state under sharia law in Syria after Assad.

- China has stuck to its line of approving intervention only when vetted by the United Nations. Emphasizing the need for a political resolution, it even offered its own four-point proposal last November.

Position of the Peoples Republic of China for the purpose of the conference held by the Forum for 21st Century:

- First of all the position of the Peoples Republic of China concerning issues of support of either the government or insurgent members is very strict. PRC strongly believes the sovereignty of a state must not be breached and therefore a clear act of intervention would be considered as an act of aggression. We extend your understanding of the situation, but we must emphasize its delicate nature.
- Secondly we welcome the establishment of any peacekeeping missions or established dialogs between the two parties that are in conflict. The exact methods or numbers can be a question for further discussions. The Peoples Republic of China promotes any peacekeeping solution that has been previously discussed by all members and both opposing parties.
- Thirdly the Peoples Republic of China would like to promote the material support that would be provided to the inflicted inhabitants via humanitarian aid. After the prolonged conflict the PRC has come to the conclusion that this region is in serious shortage of basic necessities and that the international community should take any action possible to relieve the suffering of the local population.
- Finally the Peoples Republic of China suggests the rethinking of any tendencies to divide Syria into smaller autonomous regions due to the concerns of the increase of influence by terrorist organizations. This fact could lead to a rise in crime, terrorist attacks that could easily spread out to other parts of the region. Therefore the Peoples Republic of China supports the stability of Syria in its current form.