

Forum for the 21st Century

Global Security Issues Section

Syrian Crisis

Statement of the USA to the First Draft

The United States of America are thankful to the Forum for the 21st Century for taking the initiative to solve the ongoing civil war in Syria. We are equally grateful to be part of the negotiations and discussions with our partners from the European Union, League of Arab States, Russia, China and Brazil on this serious matter.

The United States of America are greatly concerned about the current situation in Syria, not just because of the unprecedented acts of violence, civilian casualties and material losses, but also of its greater implications in the entire region. Peace, stability and democracy have always been our key interests in the Middle East and Syria is no exception. We condemn in the strongest terms all human rights violations in Syria on all sides. More than 100,000 people have been killed in the conflict, more than 2 million people have become refugees, and approximately 5 million are internally displaced. We condemn in the strongest terms the worst chemical weapons attack in history, which occurred in August 2013 and claimed the lives of so many men, women, and children. It is evident that the situation in Syria after these chemical attacks has become uncontrollable. Moreover, it is not only the interest of the United States of America, but it should also be the interest of the International Community to thoroughly investigate and subsequently punish in equity this unacceptable act that was committed. If the world should be a more peaceful place for all of us, the United States of America deem it necessary and urgent. We therefore call on the International Community to step forward and find a common peaceful solution to the crisis.

After analyzing the first draft proposed by the Forum for the 21st Century, allow us to express our opinions and suggestions on the proposals.

As stated above, the United States of America are committed to find a peaceful solutions to the conflict. We strongly refuse to support in either material, financial or military ways both the regime of president Bashar al-Assad and opposition groups closely affiliated

with terrorists' organizations such as Al-Qaida as both have committed atrocities, crimes against humanity and violated basic human rights. We believe that a military victory of either of these parties will not ultimately lead to peace and stability in Syria and the entire region as neither can ensure a just and rightful democratic process in the post war country. We are also highly disturbed by the increasing military activities of the terrorist organization Hezbollah near the borders with Lebanon and elements of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards within Syria as both contribute to the escalation of violence and the spread of the conflict to neighboring countries. We call on our partners to both condemn these activities and take steps to prevent Syria's neighbors to be endangered by the conflict. However we, the United State of America, have strong moral obligations when it comes to help those in need of help. Therefore we are willing to provide humanitarian aid and support to civilians, refugees and the most vulnerable groups including children, pregnant women, elderly people and malnourished people.

The undemocratic, unjust and brutal rule of president Bashar al-Assad and his regime is the primary cause of the current situation in Syria. The decision to send tanks and armed vehicles against unarmed protesters two years ago was the reason why the war started in the first place. Assad and his government are responsible for the murder of thousands of innocent civilians and therefore we demand that Assad and his regime should be adequately punished for their crimes and stand trial for their unlawful past actions. The United States of America have always been supporters of the rule of law and justice as should be all interests parties.

A complete reconstruction of the Syrian political system as a whole is not a recommended mean to end the crisis. The process would be very difficult, without any guarantee that one party or the other will again abuse power against other ethnical groups. Several attempts have been made to force Assad's regime to step down from power and enter a political dialogue with the opposition, however Assad never agreed on this. Hence it is highly unlikely that the regime will willingly give up the privileges it established for the Shiites over the decades.

After much debates we have concluded that the territorial division of Syria according to the ethnic background of the major population is the preferred peaceful solution of the ongoing conflict. Since the start of the conflict the Syrian society called for greater justice and a rightful distribution of power between the ethnic and religious groups. The United States of America stand with the Syrian people and want to oversee to their needs. We believe that an

ethnic division of the country will lead to the reduction of tension between the Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds in the same way as it did between the nationalities of the former Yugoslavia. We believe this would be an acceptable solution and a compromise for all parties as it will not require military actions to settle the situation.

With the dissolution of Syria and the creation of three separate states, each with a political system based on its own religious, cultural and social needs, the need for a peacekeeping mission would no longer be required as it would be materially and financially demanding. However we do not entirely exclude this option either, a limited peacekeeping mission in terms of border security between the newly established states and their neighbors, under certain condition and greater participation of engaged states, is possible.

Recognizing that Syria's conflict has no military solution, we reaffirm our commitment to seek a peaceful political settlement. We are committed to a political solution which will be acceptable by all interested parties and in accordance with international law. The United States of America firmly believe that if the situation in the country is once again stabilized, it will aid not just the Syrian people, but the International Community as a whole.