

**Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**  
*Global Security Issues Section*  
*Syrian Crisis*

18/11/2013 BRATISLAVA

***Statement of the Federative Republic of Brazil***  
***on the 2nd Draft of the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***

Brazil would like to thank the *Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century* for initiating the discussion and organizing the conference on the issue of Syrian civil war. We recognize the seriousness of the Syrian crisis and would like to express our full support towards finding possible solutions to the alarming situation. Regarding the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the *Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, we believe we would reach a common understanding between all parties present upholding values of peace, harmony and diplomacy and that the hostilities in Syria will stop.

With regard to the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft proposed by the *Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> century* let us annotate it and include our suggestions as well. We condemn all violence in Syria, which has cost thousands of lives. Brazil takes note of events of Arab spring with regard of right of people for greater political participation, economic opportunities, freedom and dignity but unequivocally condemns the military interventions, tortures, executions and abuse of human rights on both sides of the conflict.

1. We strongly agree with the main goal of the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century that the hostilities are required to stop. Brazil opposes any military action against Syria without UN mandate. Such intervention cannot solve the complicated issue in Syria. In our point of view the complete disarmament of the Syrian army and all military and para-military groups in Syria under responsibility of Syrian Government and Syrian National Coalition is a challenging issue and it will require further consideration in order to be fulfilled effectively and without the risk that another conflict will ensue. With regard to the proposal of the Forum requiring the agreement by every member of this Forum and by every political group (governmental or not) in Syria we assume that it remains questionable who is legitimate to represent the Syria's stance. In our point of view the high level of political fragmentation within Syria makes it difficult to ask every political group to express support for the process of disarmament. We propose to identify the main representatives of the

Syrian political spectrum in order to proceed in negotiation process on this issue. Further Brazil also highly appreciates the reference being made to the need of reporting regarding the potential misuse of power to UN representative in the transition period.

2. As the Syrian government on 14<sup>th</sup> September this year accepted to put its chemical weapon under international control and on 28<sup>th</sup> September the UN Security Council voted unanimously to secure and destroy Syria's chemical weapons stockpile, the debate about military intervention has been muted for now. Brazil commends support to implementing this resolution on destroying Syria's chemical weapons stockpile and claims that Syria's ambassador to the UN Bashar Ja'afari suitably suggests that the countries supporting rebels- Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, France and US should also abide by it. In this context is further required to pass another resolution, which will define sanctions in the case of non-compliance with a resolution demanding the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons arsenal. Pursuant to the Forum's requirement on enforcing the weapons embargo at least during the transition period, the acceptance of Syria must be achieved and legally confirmed. We are also comfortable with the suggestion that all the outstanding weapons contract which are valid shall have their validity postponed and shall be back in force after the transition period ends until parties to contract do not agree on substantial changes or amendments to settled contract. We consider as appropriate the proposal that if there will be any contract that will not be honoured because of any non-legal reasons, the injured party shall be compensated by the contracting party which did not fulfil its obligations as compatible with the international law.

3. To solve the crisis, we also need to take into consideration specific needs and cultural values of the country. Syria is composed of many different ethnic groups. Tensions between these groups are strengthened by lasting suppression of the Arab Sunni majority by the Alawite minority and reluctance of the Alewites government to give up power. Furthermore neglecting even basic rights for Kurds and relative good standing of Christians in Assad's regime are likely to cause another conflict in the future. Steps must also be taken to prevent radicals from dominating the government at the expense of human rights. The Syrian National Council should gain temporary power before the first election. Otherwise if Assad remains in power, citizens of Syria should gain more freedoms and UN observers should be placed in the country. The new government must be mutually and democratically agreed up by a majority of its citizens. The role of international community will be to create the sufficient conditions enabling the realization of free and equal elections, where every citizen can cast a vote to a new preferred authority. Any discrimination based on ethnic, religious, gender or any other ground must be prevented. The citizens of Syria should express their interest and any other parties have to respect the sovereignty of the country and

interests of its citizens and not interfere with this process because the inadequate comprehension of country's realities and promotion of own interests would make the situation even harder and establishing of truce would be threatened.

4. The main purpose of international community now lays beside the finding of the way to definitively stop fighting in the country and to prevent rise of similar crisis in the future also in providing sufficient humanitarian aid to people affected by the conflict. To realize this goal Brazil is committed to efforts to secure the access of neutral UN units to any locality where violence may ensue in the transition period especially as proposed by the Forum to buildings and places which are connected to the sectors of the economy that are used for the production, import and storage of goods and machinery required for the conduct of a war.

5. Attention must be given to the refugees. At least the adequate food, shelter and medicine must be provided through humanitarian agencies, and a gradual resettlement plan should be implemented when the fighting ends. If it will be needed third parties should provide assistance to the Syrian government in implementing the resettlement plan and also provide financial and other help when possible to rectify the damages caused by the conflict.

6. As we proclaimed our full support to the Forum's proposals to achieve truce in Syria, we affirm our commitment to sign and adopt a memorandum including all areas, where the agreement will be made among the participants of the conference. We are devoted to participate in the honest discussion with representatives of all parties present with regard to their undoubted sovereignty and sincerity.

Representative of the Federative Republic of  
Brazil

Section for the Global security issues of the  
Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century