

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

Position paper of The League of Arab States to the 2nd 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 are pleased that we can assist in the resolution of this delicate matter by expressing our statement on discussed topics.

Positions of The Arab League maintained towards the points presented in 2nd 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 taken concrete steps towards a peaceful reconciliation, already mentioned in the 1st position paper. Therefore, we fully agree with the Forum's proposal of no military intervention in Syria of any actor. We also share beliefs that the presence of a peace-making mission is a favourable, whereas it is inevitable to bring Syria's warring sides to the negotiating table. League deplors that it will be a stumbling-block, accordingly to the results of Emergency meeting of Arab League foreign ministers, held the 3rd November 2013. The newly formed opposition Syrian National Council proclaimed an absence on peace talks unless there is a clear time frame for Syrian President to leave power.

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) and that is why the League of Arab States will meet with them also on 25th November 2013. Arab League recognizes the importance of weapons topic consequently we organized The Emergency meeting, mentioned above, to coordinate a consensus position for talks eliminating weapons of mass destruction while a compromise was not found. We call on the Syrian opposition swiftly to form a credible delegation, under the leadership of the mainstream Syrian National Coalition, for diplomatic and negotiation talks.

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

The League has already taken concrete steps towards democracy in Syria by drafting a plan to pave the way for elections. Therefore we endorse exceedingly the arrangement of free and equal elections, accordingly to cultural and traditional customs. The Arab League recommends the participation of international spotters who will look after a smooth and fair elections process.

4. Armament-sector inspections must be allowed

League of Arab States approves that neutral UN units should control merely delicate sectors connected to armour-steel industry, during a transition period. We insist on exact determination of the duration of transition period that should be agreed in multilateral negotiations.

5. Humanitarian aid must be given

The Arab League shares the deep concern at the dire humanitarian situation and the need urgently to improve humanitarian access. The League reaffirms the idea of furnishing any form of aid to concerning region. We consider also the assistance from part of states as strongly needed, so we recommend not focusing the aid merely on non-governmental organisations. Whereas to prevent inefficient allocation, abuses or corruption we recommend to develop coordinated working group that will assure a transparency among international donors. Concerning the resettlement of displaced people, we are highly opened to negotiation achieving a positive result.

6. A memorandum must be signed

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

The League of Arab States repeats sincere 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.

Deputy of The League of Arab States