

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:

- As the first point the Peoples Republic of China would like to thank the Forum for 21st Century for taking into account the proposal not to divide the affected area. The region is unstable enough and this move may have had a negative impact in the effort to secure peace and stability and may have brought a prolonging of the military activity of both parties.
- Secondly, the Peoples Republic of China supports immediate cease off all military activities by both sides of the conflict. As mention in the draft proposed by the Chairman of the Forum for 21st Century, the actions by both sides are not significant enough for either to gain control of the region and therefore only prolonging the suffering of the inhabitation affected by this conflict.
- Thirdly we support the engagement of an independent distribution channel of humanitarian aid that has previous expertise with such situations and can play a major role in the correct and effective humanitarian relief of the affected area. The inhabitation of the area is in serious need of food and medical treatment.
- Furthermore, the PRC believes that the establishment of a round table behind which the delegates of the Syrian government and the representatives of the opposing side moderated by an independent committee could shorten the time of the conflict and set a ground to deliver the proposals agreed on the Forum.
- Last but not least, the Peoples Republic of China proposes swift action once an agreement has been made by the members of the Security Section at the Forum for 21st Century as this area has been neglected for a period that is not acceptable anymore and

we must focus our effort to agree on a solution for the benefit of the inhabitation of the region.