

Syrian Crisis

Statement of the USA to the Second 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 second draft proposed by the *Forum for the 21st Century*, allow us to express our opinions and suggestions on the statements and proposals.

Regarding the possible negotiations between the Syrian government and the Opposition forces, we find it highly unlikely that such peace negotiations can take place, as numerous previous attempts have proven to be unsuccessful, mainly due to the unwillingness of the Syrian government to step down from power. However, we are willing to discuss the matter under the condition that president Barshar al-Assad will be punished for his actions.

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 military vehicles against unarmed protesters more than 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 unlawful treatment of prisoners of war, therefore we demand that Assad and his regime are 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.

As stated above, the United States of America, are committed to find a peaceful solution 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.

The United States of America, as representatives of the free world, support in all ways the Syrian People and call for greater international support for the moderate forces within the opposition. We support the emergence of a democratic force, which can ensure and maintain control over the country. If any peace negotiations between the conflicted parties should occur that we propose that the moderates should represent the Syrian People.

A peacekeeping mission in this state of affairs would be, in our opinion, irrelevant. Syria's territory is too vast for a peacekeeping mission to be effective and successful and would require considerable human and material capital, both which we currently lack. However we do not entirely exclude this option either, a limited peacekeeping mission in terms of border security between Syria and its neighbors, under certain conditions and greater participation of engaged states, is possible.

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.

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.

We, the United State of America, have strong moral obligations when it comes to help those in need of it. As one of the leading donors of official humanitarian assistance in the world we are prepared to provide humanitarian aid and support to civilians, refugees and the most vulnerable groups including children, pregnant women, elderly people and malnourished people. We welcome the willingness of our partners to solve this matter and call on the international community to attend to the basic needs of the Syrian people inside and outside of the country.

Unfortunately, we have to express our deep disappointment at the statement of the *Forum for the 21st Century* that it does not favor any territorial division of the country, as no

discussion or vote on the matter has been conducted. We call on *Forum for the 21st Century* to rectify this procedural mistake. The United States of America are well aware of the seriousness of the topic and request proper consultation of the matter.

We have concluded that, in the long run, the territorial division of Syria according to the ethnic background of the major population should be 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 ethnical 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 and stand prepared make to necessary steps to for its implementation.

With the dissolution of Syria and the creation of agreed number of 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.

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.

Delegation of the United States of America