

Statement of the Federative Republic of Brazil on the 3rd Draft of the Forum for the 21st Century

The Federative republic of Brazil would like thank *the Forum for 21st Century* for creating a space for discussion among leading countries in order to find a multilateral solution to the Syrian conflict. Regarding the 3rd draft of the *Forum for the 21st Century*, we believe we found the right course on how to resolve this Syrian crisis in a peaceful and democratic way.

With regards to the Geneva II meeting scheduled for 22nd January 2014, there lies the necessity to identify key participants in these diplomatic negotiations. We are aligned with the theory, that the peace-making process should include representative part of participants in the Syrian conflict. However, we would exclude all the terroristic groups or troops without organized structure of operation. As the conditions of single opposition groups are in many cases contradictory, it will be difficult to persuade all participants to attend these diplomatic negotiations. We identify these parties that are eligible to participate in the negotiations:

- 1. Syrian National Council (SNC)** – with its president George Sabra. This opposition party is still a dominant subject although there were some sectarian divisions within the party. SNC is also supported by the *Free Syrian Army (FSA)* and *Syrian Islamic Front (SIF)*, which raises its credibility.
- 2. Representatives of Syrian government** – President Bashar Al-Assad. We believe that for abandoning the fights, it is necessary to involve the government representatives in the diplomatic negotiations. Even though some parties will oppose it, there is no other way than to negotiate with the government.
- 3. Kurdish groups** – as the peace-making process should include the opinion variety of Syrian country, Kurds that are currently controlling substantial part of Syrian land should not be excluded from the diplomatic negotiations as well.
- 4. Muslim Brotherhood** – with its leader Mohammed Badie. This might be the most controversial participant of negotiations. However, Brazilian administration believes that giving the right to participate for this party is necessary for maintaining the

objectivity of this negotiation process. Muslim Brotherhood is well organized political spectrum that operates from abroad. Their relations with Bashar Al-Assad are very tense and the party was abandoned in Syria from 1982. Their participation in Geneva II is conditioned by immediate resignation of government with the head of Bashar Al-Assad. However, we believe that government participation in Geneva II is crucial in order to advance in truce-making process, which is why this condition of Muslim Brotherhood will be hard to fulfill.

5. Regarding other opposition parties in Syria, their participation should be object to a further consideration. We reject the participation of **Jabhat Al Nusra**, thanks to its allegiance to Al Qaeda. Concerning smaller parties such as **Local Coordinating Committees (LCC)**, **National Co-ordination Committee (NCC)** and **Syrian Revolution General Commission** we believe that their level of influence is too weak for being a contribution to the resolution of Syrian crisis in diplomatic forum.

Once the official negotiations have started, there lies the necessity to try to find common ground for negotiating parties. We believe that free democratic elections under international control are the only resolution to the Syrian conflict. This international control should be secured by the UNO blue barrette troops whit the substantial amount of soldiers to guarantee an order in the country. Furthermore, the disarmament of Syria from chemical weapons should be implemented until **31st January 2014**, as it was not successful in the previous deadline due to several circumstances. Regarding Geneva II, Brazilian administration believes that it is necessary to guarantee a **temporary immunity from prosecution for Bashar Al-Assad and other governmental bodies**, otherwise there won't be any chance for consensus. On the other hand Bashar should lead the country towards **premature parliamentary elections which should take place in summer 2014**.

Concerning problematic borders and weapon trafficking, Brazilian administration believes that **weapon embargo should begin together with the start of the peace-making mission** and should be in force at least during the transition period. In our point of view we need to

emphasize that also the acceptance of Syria must be achieved and legally confirmed. Additionally we would propose that the outstanding weapon contracts 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.

Lastly, attention must be given to the refugees. This means that 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. It might be the case that third parties should provide assistance to the Syrian government in implementing the resettlement plan and also provide financial help to rectify the damages caused by the conflict.

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 with regard to their undoubted sovereignty and sincerity.

January 4th 2014, Bratislava

Global security issues representative of
the Federative Republic of Brazil