

Syrian Crisis

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

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 terrorist 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 of them can ensure a just and rightful democratic process in the post war country. Therefore we call on the entire international community to stop providing weapons, arms, munitions, material and finances to both parties to ensure that the acts of violence are gradually reduced.

The United States of America fully support the proposed peace negotiations between the current Syrian government and the moderate opposition forces that represent the voice of the Syrian people. Extremists and Al-Qaida affiliated terrorist and oppression groups are not to be allowed to be present in these negotiations. The main topic will be the arrangement of free elections on a national level.

As a preparation for the upcoming elections we suggest the creation of local ceasefires between the conflicted parties to ensure that most of the country is under control and in a state of election readiness. This will help to identify areas where extremists have taken over. An

international mission that would stabilize the remaining areas 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. The remaining groups refusing to surrender will have to be dealt by the local Syrian forces themselves.

Regarding the elections themselves an independent international commission should be created in order to guarantee that the national elections will be free and fair. As a condition for election participation, only parties and groups that attend to the peace negotiations are to be allowed to participate in them as a sign of willingness to end the conflict. Once the elections are official, everyone must respect the results of the elections. If any group of people should be unwilling to respect the results of the elections, it is necessary to solve it with the help of the international community in a peace way.

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 armed vehicles against innocent protesters more than two years ago was the reason why the war started in the first place.

Although we are well aware of the crimes committed by the current government and Assad himself, due to the complicated situation in the country we are willing to allow him to remain the head of state under the condition that Assad will no longer be eligible to run for presidency in the upcoming and any other future elections and will end his term once a new government is elected. We still demand, however that Assad is afterwards adequately punished for his crimes and stands trial for his unlawful past actions.

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.

Recognizing that the enormous number of war refugees is becoming an alarming issue in the conflict, we call on the creation of an international agency that will ensure that the dislocated citizens of Syria are adequately treated with sufficient supplies of food, water and shelter and can safely return to their homes, once the war is over. Seeing that the war has devastated the Syrian economic infrastructure; we are also willing to provide the future government with financial and material support as part of a post-war reconstruction of the country.

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