

Communiqué of the Security Section A of the Forum for the 21st Century

The year 2010 saw the eruption of a civil uprising against the government of Syria following similar social movements in the Middle Eastern world – an ever-growing phenomenon which was dubbed the Arab spring. Soon after, popular demonstrations emerged in Syria, seeking the resignation of the government and clashes between the Syrian army and rebel groups followed. The conflict is now in its fourth year and continues to cause death and destruction of the Syrian nation. Furthermore the country faces ongoing and unresolved crises concerning its economic, social, cultural, political, legal and humanitarian development.

Therefore we the delegations of

European Union
Federative Republic of Brazil
League of Arab States
People's Republic of China
Russian Federation
United States of America

would like to express our gratitude to the Forum for the 21st Century for initiating conference on the issue of Syrian civil war.

Unified in the Security Section A of the Forum for the 21st Century, are hereby affirming our commitment to follow the agreed upon positions of this communiqué with the best of our capacities.

Recalling the results of the Geneva I communiqué and the resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations regarding Syria and expressing our regret that the Geneva II process did not bring about any tangible solution to the crisis;

Reaffirming our strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria;

Affirming the endeavor of the Syrian people for a democratic and free society and at the same time noting that the final political solution has to be reached by a Syrian-led political process and that no outside force shall infringe upon the sovereignty of the Syrian state;

Condemning the widespread violations of human rights, the use of violence and military force and all activities against human dignity;

Proclaiming our respect towards the rule of international law, also proclaiming our principal position not to unilaterally intervene in Syria;

Sharing the concern of the Syrian nation regarding the dire humanitarian situation causing more than six million people to flee their country and many others to be internally displaced, and profoundly regretting the death of many thousands.

We agree on the following:

Article 1 **Diplomatic mission**

- 1.1 We will establish a diplomatic mission in order to provide a platform for a mediated dialogue between all the parties involved in the conflict (as defined by Article 1.2). The purpose of this Mission is to evaluate the situation on a daily basis, the needs and interests of the parties involved and to implement the Communiqué.
- 1.2 The parties eligible for participation in the negotiation process are the government currently in force and all opposition fractions which are willing to support the peacemaking activity of the Mission.
- 1.3 The main objective of this Mission is to facilitate peace, stability, safety and find a common ground for further future negotiations. The secondary objective of this Mission is to act in the framework formulated in the Communiqué. The diplomatic Mission will welcome any result that will lead to the fulfillment of the main objective regardless of the secondary objective. Simultaneously, any further cooperation between the negotiating parties involved overreaching the aims or methods set by the Communiqué will be highly appreciated.

Article 2 **Composition of the mission**

- 2.1 The Mission shall consist of two representatives for each member of the Forum for the 21st century and the Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States. The representatives shall be professional diplomats, respected figures of high credibility with extensive knowledge on the relevant region and field experience.
- 2.2 The Mission should be chaired by the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States.

Article 3 **Observers**

Additionally we offer the possibility for the immediate neighboring countries, except of those which are members of the League of Arab States, to obtain the status of an Observer. An

observer has the right to appoint one official diplomatic representative to be part of the Mission. Observers should act in accordance with the Communiqué.

Article 4 **Methods of negotiations**

The principal negotiation method of the Mission will be the evaluative mediation approach. The Mission as mediator can make direct recommendations to the parties involved, can hold separate meetings if needed and can directly influence the structure of the process of mediation.

Article 5 **Measures to eliminate violence**

The members of the Forum for the 21st Century commit themselves to suspend any support (military, logistical, financial, material, diplomatic or other forms of help) towards any side of the conflict which promotes violence. The members recognize the need for legitimate self-defense and the importance of preventing terrorism and enhancing security. Support in accordance with these efforts is not considered as violation of Article 5.

Article 6 **International security assistance**

Being conscious of the security situation in Syria we suggest establishing a peacekeeping mission - International Security Assistance for Syria (ISAS) in cooperation with the United Nations. The deployment of ISAS is conditional upon the political stabilization in the country and the official approval of the legitimate Syrian government.

Article 7 **Political prisoners**

The members of the Forum for the 21st Century call upon the Syrian government and all the opposition parties to create a list of all persons being detained for political reasons on both sides. This list should be presented to the Mission as well as to the negotiating parties. The negotiating parties should exchange political prisoners applying reciprocity, as a sign of good will.

Article 8 **War crimes and crimes against humanity**

In order to suppress violent activities, and retribution like behavior, we suggest initiating investigations of potential war crimes and crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court. The members of the Forum for the 21st Century proclaim to support financially these investigations.

Article 9 **Democratic elections**

- 9.1 The Members of the Forum for the 21st Century agree that the best course of action for Syria is to hold elections by a general, free and equal ballot.
- 9.2 The elections should be transparent and Syrian citizens shall not be subject to discrimination on grounds of gender, religion and ethnicity. Any Syrian citizen can participate in these elections regardless of his/her involvement in the Syrian conflict, if he/she fulfils the constitutional requirements to take advantage of his/her passive voting right.
- 9.3 The Members of the Forum for the 21st Century are prepared to assemble a neutral international team of election observers to monitor and validate the legitimacy of the elections.
- 9.4 Furthermore, we are open to provide technical assistance regarding the logistics of the elections upon request made by the Syrian government.

Article 10 **Humanitarian and Post-conflict reconstruction aid**

The Members of the Forum for the 21st Century agree on joint participation on country's recovery by creation of two separate funds, one addressing humanitarian aid and another for economic reconstruction of Syria. The Members shall donate to these funds up to 1,6 billions USD in tranches within two years. The Post-conflict fund will be frozen until the country's political stabilization. The humanitarian fund will be free to use once it is established. All questions concerning the use of the funds will be coordinated by a working group established by the forum.

We recognize that the Syrian civil war enters a fourth year and we express a strong endorsement of the importance of the peacemaking process. It is in the interest of all Syrian people to save the country and the interest of all of us to help that to be achieved. Member countries affirm their support to the Forum for the 21st Century believing that such multilateral platform is the only legitimate approach to solving the Syrian crisis and alike. The members express their hope that the crisis will find a swift end regardless of the outcome of the Mission.

We are glad that our discussion reached an agreement confirmed by the signatures of the common Communiqué.

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