

STATEMENT BY MR. VINAY KUMAR, ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE,
AT THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 13, 2012



Thank you, Mr President.

The Syrian Arab Republic has, by virtue of its geographic and strategic location and the genius of its people, played an important role in the Middle East through out the recorded history. Even in the modern time, Syria's role in the developments in the Middle East cannot be overemphasized. Prolonged instability and unrest in Syria, therefore, have implications for peace and stability in the wider region.

2. India is deeply concerned with the present situation in Syria that has resulted in the deaths of thousands of civilians and security forces personnel over the last eleven months. We strongly condemn all violence,

irrespective of whoever the perpetrators are. We also condemn all violations of human rights. India holds the rights of expression and peaceful assembly among the fundamental values that should be respected, while ensuring stability and security of the society. The problem in Syria being primarily political in nature, India has, from the beginning of the protests, called for a peaceful and inclusive political process to address the grievances of all sections of Syrian society.

3. India has conveyed this message to the Syrian leadership, both bilaterally as well as along with its IBSA partners. We have impressed upon the Syrian side to abjure violence and pay heed to the aspirations of the people of Syria.

4. We are firmly of the view that a political process for resolution of the present crisis should be led by the Syrians themselves. We believe that the main role of the international community is to facilitate engagement of the Syrian Government with all sections of Syrian society for an inclusive political process, taking into account the legitimate aspirations of all Syrians while ensuring respect for the country's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

5. The League of Arab States, as an important regional organisation, should play its required and historic role in promoting political dialogue among the Syrian parties. In this context, we welcomed the deployment of the League's Observer Mission across several areas in the country which had a calming effect on the level of violence and provided a more accurate picture of developments. We have also been supportive of the efforts by the Arab League for a peaceful resolution of the crisis through a Syrian-led inclusive political process. We support the League's call for serious political dialogue between the Syrian government and the whole spectrum of the opposition under the auspices of the League of Arab States. We believe that the leadership of Syria is a matter for the Syrian people to decide.

6. In conclusion, Mr President, we think that for an expeditious resolution of the problem in Syria, the League of the Arab States should facilitate peaceful engagement of all opposition forces in Syria in constructive dialogue with the authorities. We hope that this will create a new environment for peace and promote a political process. This political dialogue should build upon the political reforms already announced by the Syrian leadership with necessary changes so that they find acceptance among all sections of Syrian society.

Thank you.

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