

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UN, GENEVA

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
23RD SESSION (27 MAY – 14 JUNE 2013)

URGENT DEBATE ON SYRIA
(29 May 2013)

Statement by India

Mr. President,

It is regrettable that the situation in Syria continues to deteriorate with unabated violence. The Council has adopted 9 resolutions, including four at Special Sessions, in a span of just two years. The Council needs to reflect seriously on the efficacy of adopting such one-sided resolutions, which by their very nature make no meaningful impact in addressing the human rights situation on the ground.

The reports of the Commission of Inquiry and statements of the High Commissioner and the Special Procedures acknowledge that serious violation of human rights have been committed by all sides. The resolution before the Council does not reflect these conclusions.

India strongly condemns all violence in Syria as well as all violations of human rights, irrespective of who their perpetrators are.

We believe that the resort to violence by various sides to the conflict has undermined the efforts for a political solution to the crisis. The supply of weapons to armed groups is aggravating the crisis. The violence has assumed a serious sectarian nature in which terrorist groups, including Al Qaida, have entrenched themselves.

We believe that the Syrian crisis can only be resolved through a Syrian-led political process that respects Syria's independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty, involves all sections of Syrian society and meets their legitimate aspirations.

India remains committed to supporting the efforts of the United Nations, including Joint Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi, to resolve the Syrian crisis expeditiously through inclusive political dialogue among Syrian parties.

We also welcome the recent decision by the Russian Federation and the United States to convene a meeting of the Action Group with the Syrian parties, and hope that all sides will engage seriously, realistically and unconditionally to resolve the crisis in the interests of the Syria people, the region and the larger international community.

The Council in its efforts to protect human rights of Syrian people should not, even inadvertently, give the impression that violence perpetrated by any one group for any reason is justified. The Council must also not confuse its primary mandate of human rights with humanitarian issues. These are separate issues which are best handled by their respective mandated bodies.

I thank you.
