

Resolution No. A/HRC/20/L.22: "Situation of human rights in Syrian Arab Republic"

Explanation of vote by India

India has consistently supported all efforts to resolve the Syrian crisis through an inclusive Syrian-led political process. To this end, we have given our full support for the mission of Joint Special Envoy Mr. Kofi Annan. India is seriously concerned about Human Rights violations in Syria and we condemn violations of human rights from all sides. We voted in favour of the resolution in the Special Session on Syria on the 1st of June to condemn the El Houleh incident and to underscore that violence should cease without any further delay.

2. However, we are concerned at the one-sided condemnation of human rights violations. The Commission of Inquiry in its Oral Update to this Council on 27 June, the Deputy Joint Special Envoy in his remarks to the Council on the same day and High Commissioner Navi Pillay in her briefing to the UN Security Council on 2 July 2012, had all noted that the anti-Government groups are also committing acts of violence and violations of human rights, including torture and extra-judicial killings. This Council should not ignore these reports.

3.. The Commission of Inquiry has not yet been able to obtain conclusive evidence on the El Houleh killings nor have the UNSMIS observers, in spite of being present on the ground. In the circumstances, it would be appropriate to wait for the full report of the Commission of Inquiry.

4. The Human Rights Council should always act with complete impartiality in order to maintain its credibility and retain the trust and confidence of all. The Council must always maintain the highest standards of objectivity and sagacity in its pronouncements and resolutions.

5. On 26 June, the Deputy Joint Special Envoy briefed this Council on the tireless efforts of the Joint Special Envoy to chart an alternative course for Syria - away from a military to a political solution of the conflict. These efforts were endorsed by the Action Group Ministerial meeting in Geneva four days later.

6. A conducive environment should be created for the success of the Annan Plan as well as for an inclusive Syrian-led process. We expect that the opposition will also engage seriously in this process so that the crisis is resolved without any further bloodshed and that peace, stability and security is re-established. We feel that this is not the appropriate time for yet another resolution by this Council. Accordingly, India intends to abstain in the vote.
