

MEI DOCUMENTS

No. 17

Wednesday, 2 May 2012

Kofi Annan Plan for Syria, March 2012

Note: Following his visit and meetings with the Syrian leadership the Special Envoy of the United Nations and Arab League and also former Secretary General of the UN Kofi Annan outlined a six-point formula to resolve the unrest in Syria. It was endorsed by the UNSC on 21 March and was communicated to the Syrian leadership. On 27 March, the Syrian government conveyed its acceptance of the six-point proposal. **Editor, MEI@ND.**

*

UN Security Council, 6736th Meeting (AM), 21 March 2012

In Presidential Statement, Security Council Gives Full Support to Efforts of Joint Special Envoy of United Nations, Arab League to End Violence in Syria

Expressing its gravest concern at the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in Syria and “profound regret” over the thousands of deaths, the Security Council this morning gave its full support to the efforts of the Joint Special Envoy for the United Nations and the Arab League to bring an immediate end to all violence and human rights violations, secure humanitarian access, facilitate a Syrian-led political transition and other measures.

Through a statement read out by Mark Lyall Grant of the United Kingdom, which holds the rotating presidency of the body this month, the Council calls on the Syrian Government and opposition to work in good faith to implement “fully and immediately” the six-point proposal submitted to Syrian authorities by former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the Joint Envoy, while reaffirming a strong commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

The statement relates that Mr. Annan's proposal calls for a commitment to work with him to commence a political dialogue between the Syrian Government and "the whole spectrum of the Syrian opposition" and to appoint an empowered interlocutor when called upon by him to do so. On humanitarian access, the proposal calls for the immediate institution of a daily two-hour pause in fighting. It also calls for freedom of movement throughout the country for journalists and for accelerated release of arbitrarily detained persons.

Requesting the Envoy to provide updates on progress of his mission, the Council finally stated "it will consider further steps as appropriate".

The meeting began at 10:08 a.m. and ended at 10:13 a.m.

Presidential Statement

The full text of the statement contained in document S/PRST/2012/6 reads as follows:

"The Security Council recalls its presidential statement of 3 August 2011 and its press statement of 1 March 2012.

"The Security Council expresses its gravest concern at the deteriorating situation in Syria which has resulted in a serious human rights crisis and a deplorable humanitarian situation. The Security Council expresses its profound regret at the death of many thousands of people in Syria.

"The Security Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria, and to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

"The Security Council welcomes the appointment of Joint Special Envoy for the United Nations and the League of Arab States, Kofi Annan, following the General Assembly resolution A/RES/66/253 of 16 February 2012 and relevant resolutions of the League of Arab States.

"The Security Council expresses its full support for the efforts of the Envoy to bring an immediate end to all violence and human rights violations, secure humanitarian access, and facilitate a Syrian-led political transition to a democratic, plural political system, in which citizens are equal regardless of their affiliations or ethnicities or beliefs, including through commencing a comprehensive political dialogue between the Syrian Government and the whole spectrum of the Syrian opposition.

"To this aim, the Security Council fully supports the initial six-point proposal submitted to the Syrian authorities, as outlined by the Envoy to the Security Council on 16 March 2012, to:

- 1) commit to work with the Envoy in an inclusive Syrian-led political process to address the legitimate aspirations and concerns of the Syrian people, and, to this end, commit to appoint an empowered interlocutor when invited to do so by the Envoy;
- 2) commit to stop the fighting and achieve urgently an effective United Nations supervised cessation of armed violence in all its forms by all parties to protect civilians and stabilize the country. To this end, the Syrian Government should immediately cease troop movements towards, and end the use of heavy weapons in, population centers, and begin pullback of military concentrations in and around population centers. As these actions are being taken on the ground, the Syrian Government should work with the Envoy to bring about a sustained cessation of armed violence in all its forms by all parties with an effective United Nations supervision mechanism. Similar commitments would be sought by the Envoy from the opposition and all relevant elements to stop the fighting and work with him to bring about a sustained cessation of armed violence in all its forms by all parties with an effective United Nations supervision mechanism;
- 3) ensure timely provision of humanitarian assistance to all areas affected by the fighting, and to this end, as immediate steps, to accept and implement a daily two-hour humanitarian pause and to coordinate exact time and modalities of the daily pause through an efficient mechanism, including at local level.
- 4) intensify the pace and scale of release of arbitrarily detained persons, including especially vulnerable categories of persons, and persons involved in peaceful political activities, provide without delay through appropriate channels a list of all places in which such persons are being detained, immediately begin organizing access to such locations and through appropriate channels respond promptly to all written requests for information, access or release regarding such persons;
- 5) ensure freedom of movement throughout the country for journalists and a non-discriminatory visa policy for them;
- 6) respect freedom of association and the right to demonstrate peacefully as legally guaranteed.

“The Security Council calls upon the Syrian Government and opposition to work in good faith with the Envoy towards a peaceful settlement of the Syrian crisis and to implement fully and immediately his initial six-point proposal.

“The Security Council requests the Envoy to update the Council regularly and in a timely manner on the progress of his mission. In light of these reports, the Security Council will consider further steps as appropriate.”

Source: UN Security Council, 21 March 2012
<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/sc10583.doc.htm>

As part of the policy, the MEI@ND standardizes spellings and date format to make the text uniformly accessible and stylistically consistent. The views expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views/positions of the MEI@ND. Editor, MEI@ND P R Kumaraswamy