

New York, 17 April 2013.

H.E. Sheikh Meshal Hamad M.J. Al-Thani
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United
Nations
New York, NY

Excellency,

We have the honour to refer to the draft resolution of the United Nations General Assembly entitled "The Situation in the Syrian Arab Republic", currently being discussed by Qatar and other Member-States. In this regard, we would like to express our deep concern on the present situation in Syria and reiterate our commitment to a solution to end violence and to promote a Syrian-led political transition.

We believe that the United Nations has an important role to play in the search for a solution to the Syrian conflict. The more the message of the General Assembly is representative of the wider membership, and the result of broad consultations, the more consideration and impact will it have. We would therefore very much appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the language of the resolution through a consultation process.

Although the current version of the draft contains positive elements, we consider that addressing the issues of concern below may render the draft more balanced and help it garner wider membership support. It is therefore kindly requested that you take into consideration, among others, the following points:

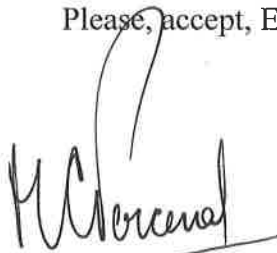
- While recognizing that the Government bears the larger responsibility for the violence in Syria, it is important to acknowledge that war crimes and violations of human rights and humanitarian law have also been committed by the armed opposition, according to the "Report of the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic" (A/HRC/22/59);
- Inclusion of a call for no further militarization of the conflict, as stated in the Geneva Final Communiqué of the Action Group on Syria;
- Avoiding language on the recognition of the opposition as the legitimate representative of the Syrian people, as many delegations are not in a position to go along with such language; and

- Adjusting the language on political transition to the terms agreed in the Geneva Final Communiqué.

Furthermore, while we acknowledge the role of regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security we are not in a position to welcome or endorse all the outcomes of meetings where we didn't participate in and, therefore, didn't have a say on the negotiations of those outcomes.

We are confident that a comprehensive and transparent discussion by the members of the United Nations on this very important draft resolution will contribute to the success of the Qatari initiative and will further the efforts to achieve a solution to the Syrian crisis.

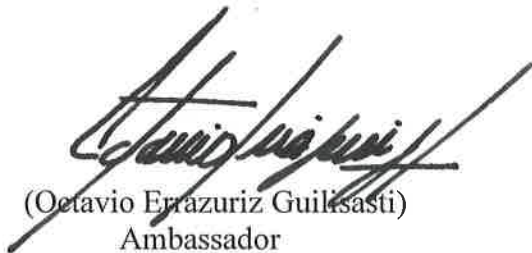
Please, accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



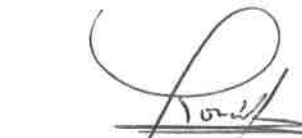
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