

New York, 18 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 Syria-led political solution to end violence and to promote a Syrian-led political transition. It may be recalled that IBSA Deputy Foreign Ministers had visited Syria in August 2011 as part of a trilateral engagement with the Syrian government to encourage democratic changes and peaceful resolution to the situation.

We believe that the United Nations has an important role to play in the search for a solution to the Syrian conflict. Therefore, it is important that any proposed resolution in the General Assembly is a result of broad consultations so that it is representative of the wider membership. This will also enhance its consideration and impact. We would therefore urge you to develop the language of the resolution through a transparent and inclusive consultation process.

In this context, it is suggested that you kindly take the following points into consideration:

- While recognizing that the Government bears the prime responsibility for protection of its citizens, it is important to acknowledge the responsibility of all sides, including the armed opposition, for the ongoing violence and violations of human rights in Syria as also mentioned in the "Report of the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic" (A/HRC/22/59);
- Include a call for complete cessation of violence by all sides and no further militarization of the conflict, as stated in the Geneva Final Communiqué of the Action Group on Syria;

- Delete language on the recognition of any opposition group as the legitimate representative of the Syrian people, as our 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.

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.



(Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti)  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Brazil



(Asoke Kumar Mukerji)  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of India



(Jeremiah Nyamane Kingsley Mamabolo)  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of South Africa