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The continuing grave deterioration of the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Reaffirming* all previous Human Rights Council resolutions on the Syrian Arab Republic,

*Reaffirming also* its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic,

*Condemning* the grave deterioration of the human rights situation as well as the indiscriminate killing and deliberate targeting of civilians as such, in violation of international humanitarian law, and acts of violence that may foment sectarian tensions,

*Condemning also* the lack of cooperation by the Syrian authorities with the independent international commission of inquiry,

*Welcoming* the efforts of the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States,

*Reaffirming* its support for the mission of the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, and welcoming the international efforts to find a political solution to the Syrian crisis that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people for a civil, democratic and pluralistic state, where all citizens are equal regardless of gender, religion and ethnicity,

*Welcoming* UNSC resolution 2139, *stressing* the importance of its implementation, and *taking note* of its demand for rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access and the need to end impunity for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights,

*Recalling* the statements made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and by the special procedures of the Human Rights Council that crimes against humanity and war crimes are likely to have been committed in the Syrian Arab Republic, and noting the repeated encouragement by the High Commissioner to the Security Council to refer the situation to the International Criminal Court,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic;
2. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the commission of inquiry through to the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, and requests the commission to present written reports on the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic during an interactive dialogue at the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Human Rights Council and to provide an oral update to the Human Rights Council during an interactive dialogue at the 26<sup>th</sup> session;

3. *Demands* that the Syrian authorities cooperate fully with the commission of inquiry, including by granting it immediate, full and unfettered access throughout the Syrian Arab Republic;
4. *Calls on* all groups in the Syrian Arab Republic to refrain from retaliation and violence, including sexual violence and torture, and urges all parties to the conflict to prevent violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses;
5. *Strongly condemns* the continued gross, systematic and widespread violations of human rights and all violations of international humanitarian law by the Syrian authorities and affiliated militias, including those involving aerial bombardment of civilian areas, in particular the indiscriminate use of barrel bombs, ballistic missiles and cluster bombs, and other actions which may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity;
6. *Expresses grave concern* at the spread of extremism and extremist groups, and *strongly condemns* all human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law in the Syrian Arab Republic;
7. *Strongly condemns* all violations and abuses committed against children and *urges* all parties to comply with their obligations under international law;
8. *Demands* that all parties demilitarise medical facilities, schools and other civilian facilities and avoid establishing military positions in populated areas and desist from attacks directed against civilian objects;
9. *Strongly condemns* all violence against persons belonging to religious or ethnic groups and *calls upon* all parties to fully respect international law;
10. *Expresses grave concern* over credible reports that thousands of detainees, both Syrian nationals and non Syrian nationals, may have died in government prisons as a result of starvation and torture, *condemns* those responsible for those violations, *demands* the release of all persons arbitrarily detained, including children, and *calls on* the Syrian authorities to publish a list of all detention facilities, ensure that conditions of detention comply with applicable international law and immediately allow access by independent monitors to all detention facilities;
11. *Stresses* the need to ensure that all those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or violations and abuses of human rights are held to account;
12. *Reaffirms* that, in the context of an inclusive and credible dialogue, the Syrian people should determine the process and mechanisms to achieve justice, reconciliation, truth and accountability for gross violations and abuses of international law, as well as reparations and effective remedies for victims, taking into account the relevance of referrals to the appropriate international criminal justice mechanism under appropriate circumstances;
13. *Demands* that the Syrian authorities meet their responsibility to protect the Syrian population;
14. *Strongly condemns* the use of chemical weapons and all indiscriminate methods of warfare in the Syrian Arab Republic, which is prohibited under international law, amounts to a serious crime and has a devastating impact on civilians and in this regard, *calls on* the Syrian authorities to accelerate the

complete and irreversible destruction of their chemical weapons programme and the removal of its chemical weapons in accordance with their obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention and the timeframes pursuant to UNSC resolution 2118 and the decisions of the OPCW Executive Council;

15. *Expresses* its support for the efforts of the Joint Special Representative to find a negotiated political solution to the Syrian crisis and *urges* those countries with influence over the Syrian parties to take all measures to encourage the parties to negotiate constructively and on the basis of the Geneva Communiqué's call for the formation of a transitional governing body;

16. *Encourages* the full participation of women in political talks as envisaged in UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 2122, and welcomes the work of UN Women in this regard;

17. *Strongly condemns* the intentional denial of humanitarian assistance to civilians, from whatever quarter, noting especially the Syrian government's responsibilities in this regard, and *deplores* the deteriorating humanitarian situation;

18. *Strongly condemns* the Syrian authorities' use of starvation of civilians as a method of combat, and *further condemns* the besiegement of civilians;

19. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence directed against humanitarian actors and *demands* that the Syrian authorities promptly allow, and all other parties to the conflict do not hinder, the rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access for UN humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners, including across conflict lines and across borders, in order to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches people in need through the most direct routes;

20. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the second International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria, held in Kuwait on 15 January 2014 and the fourth meeting of the High Level Working Group on Humanitarian Challenges, held in Geneva on 3 March 2014 and *further welcomes* the efforts by neighbouring countries to host Syrian refugees;

21. *Urges* the international community, including all donors, to provide urgent financial support to enable the host countries to respond to the growing humanitarian needs of Syrian refugees, while emphasising the principle of burden-sharing;

22. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.