



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

UNITY IN DIVERSITY



UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

"The founders intended the UN to be the foremost multilateral forum entrusted with bringing about hope, peace and order to the world. We must not steer away from the founding objectives of this organization".

Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa Republic

TOPIC A: NON-PROLIFERATION THE SITUATION IN IRAN

Since the public revelation by the National Council of Resistance of Iran (a coalition of five Iranian opposition political organizations) of Iranian's nuclear program, the concerns about this situation became international heightened, especially because Iran is a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state. Also, the confirmation of Iranian government that uranium enrichment program goes beyond the 20% (reaching up to 80%) necessary to generate energy and develop medical equipments, in other words, the nuclear technology to attend peaceful ends, contributed to increase international concern.

On the ongoing topic of the Iranian situation, since its first term on the United Nations Security Council (2007-2008), South Africa remains with the same position: defends the necessity of a nuclear disarmament of all nations, but on the other hand it also defends the right to use nuclear power for peaceful ends.

South Africa signed the NPT, also as a non-nuclear weapon state, in 1991. In addition, the government banned any further

development, manufacture, marketing, import, or export of nuclear weapons or explosives, as required by the NPT. Following South Africa's accession to the NPT, a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement was signed with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Since dismantling its nuclear weapons program, South Africa has become a champion of nuclear nonproliferation efforts and a committed defender of NPT's principles: non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful use of nuclear technology. Thus, to improve only the peaceful use of nuclear technology, all the nuclear weapon States should have already disarmed their nuclear arsenals, encouraging that is not necessary for non-nuclear-weapon States to develop nuclear weapons.

It's important to mention that South Africa was the first and only country to build nuclear weapons and then voluntarily dismantle them. The country has uranium reserves and its own nuclear power program directed to pacific purposes. Furthermore, the country praises for a pacific resolution in Iran, where negotiations could be facilitated by diplomatic talk counting on neutral States, such as South Africa itself.



TOPIC B: THE SITUATION IN SYRIA

The Arab Revolution known as the “Arab Spring” begun in Tunisia in February 2011, with a series of civilian protests against political repression, Internet censorship, as well as requiring more democracy and freedom. The Syrian counterpart started in March of 2011 when people who were protesting were arrested by the government, which responded to the protests with extreme violence. Soon, the opposition started to use the same level of violence and what started as an uprising, turned out to be a civil war, as the International Committee of the Red Cross classified in July of 2012.

South Africa recognizes that such classifications are a clear indication that the situation has reached a threshold of a civil war in which all parties have responsibilities and obligations under international humanitarian law.

As a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (2011-2012), the State condemns the continuing violence in Syria, which is spinning out of control, and states that the highest priority is to stop the killing and suffering from the civilians, so that a peaceful political transition, reflecting the will of Syrian

people, can be made. For this to happen, South Africa calls for all sides of the conflict to implement the six-point plan, created by the first UN-Arab League Joint Special Representative for Syria, Kofi Annan. Therefore, the UNSC should express unified support to the new UN-Arab League envoy to Syria: Lakhdar Brahimi. The State also supports that the imposition of sanctions only for the Government of Syria, without any action to be taken against the armed opposition, may lead to defy and noncompliance of the six-point plan by the opposition itself.

South Africa is a member of Action Group for Syria, an international diplomatic collective of countries and international organizations that periodically discuss the situation of Syria and ways to end the conflict.

In view of South Africa there is no military solution to the dispute and a one-sided resolution would only make the situation on the ground worse. It is for this reason that it strongly supports the tireless efforts of the Joint Special Envoy. It also calls for the continuation of the UNSMIS, which plays an important role through verification and facilitating local-level cease-fires.

