

The Responsibility to Protect at the Opening of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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SUMMARY

The United Nations General Assembly held its 68th Opening Session between 24 September and 2 October 2013. The theme of the General Debate, as chosen by the new President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. John W. Ashe of the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda, was the Post-2015 Millennium Development Goals Framework. During their opening statements, twenty-three countries directly referenced the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). The vast majority of these statements were strong, positive reflections on the need to uphold and advance R2P. Two countries, Costa Rica and Denmark, mentioned the R2P National Focal Points initiative. With respect to country-specific situations, an overwhelming number of states, 154 in total, mentioned the situation in Syria. Strong calls were also made for the need for accountability for the use of

chemical weapons and other atrocity crimes in Syria. There were calls for action to address the situations in the Central African Republic, as well as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. References to the situation in Mali were overwhelmingly positive, with many states congratulating the country for its recent elections. Among thematic references, many states called for the need for accountability for mass atrocity crimes, including through the International Criminal Court. Sixty-three states called for the reform of the United Nation Security Council, with nine others expressing the need for restraint on the use of the veto by the Council's five permanent members in situations of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. The Arms Trade Treaty was also a prominent theme with many states welcoming its adoption and urging further ratification.

Themes	Speakers	Total
Direct Reference to R2P	Australia; Belgium; Botswana; Chile; Costa Rica; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; Guatemala; Holy See; Iceland; Lesotho; Libya; Liechtenstein; Luxembourg; Montenegro; Netherlands; Poland; Romania; Slovenia; Solomon Islands; Syria	23
Indirect Reference to R2P	United States of America	1
Syria	Afghanistan; Albania; Algeria; Andorra; Angola; Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Armenia; Australia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Barbados; Belgium; Belize; Benin; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Brazil; Brunei Darussalam; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cambodia; Canada; Cape Verde; Central African Republic; Chad; Chile; China; Comoros; Costa Rica; Croatia; Cuba; Czech Republic; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Denmark; Dominica; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Equatorial Guinea; Estonia; European Union; Finland; France; Gabon; The Gambia; Germany; Greece; Grenada; Guatemala; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Guyana; Holy See; Hungary; Iceland; India; Indonesia; Iran; Iraq; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Jamaica; Japan; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kuwait; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Lebanon; Lesotho; Liberia; Libya; Liechtenstein; Luxembourg; Malaysia; Maldives; Mali; Malta; Marshall Islands; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mexico; Micronesia; Moldova; Monaco; Mongolia; Montenegro; Morocco; Namibia; Nauru; Nepal; Netherlands; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; Norway; Oman; Pakistan; Palau; Panama; Papua New Guinea; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Republic of Congo; Republic of Korea; Romania; Russian Federation; St. Kitts and Nevis; St. Lucia; St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Samoa; Sao Tome and Principe; Senegal; Singapore; Slovakia; Slovenia; Solomon Islands; Somalia; South Africa; Spain; State of Palestine; Sudan; Suriname; Swaziland; Sweden; Switzerland; Syria; Thailand; The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Timor-Leste; Togo; Tonga; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia; Turkey; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom; United Republic of Tanzania; United States of America; Vanuatu; Venezuela; Viet Nam; Yemen; Zimbabwe	154
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	Angola; Belgium; Benin; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Central African Republic; Chad; Democratic Republic of the Congo; France; Gabon; Guinea; Holy See;	24

	Luxembourg; Mali; Mauritius; Montenegro; Morocco; Mozambique; Namibia; New Zealand; Sao Tome and Principe; Senegal; Tanzania; Togo	
Central African Republic (CAR)	Benin; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; France; Gabon; Guinea; Holy See; Luxembourg; Mali; Montenegro; Niger; Republic of Congo; Sao Tome and Principe; Senegal; Togo	18
Mali	Algeria; Belgium; Benin; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Central African Republic; Chad; Comoros; Cote d'Ivoire; Estonia; France; Gabon; Ghana; Guinea-Bissau; Guinea; Italy; Liberia; Mali; Angola; Mauritania; Mauritius; Montenegro; Morocco; Namibia; Niger; Nigeria; Norway; Romania; Sao Tome and Principe; Spain; The Gambia; Togo; United States	32
Sudan & South Sudan	Angola; Botswana; Burkina Faso; Central African Republic; Chad; Mongolia; Montenegro; New Zealand; South Sudan; Sudan	10
Libya	France; Libya; Mali; Mauritania; Togo; United Kingdom; United States; Zimbabwe	8
Egypt	Angola; Bahrain; Botswana; Burundi; Denmark; Egypt; Guinea-Bissau; Guyana; Mali; Mauritania; Mauritius; Tunisia; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom;	14
Prevention of mass atrocity crimes	Armenia; Belgium; Chile; Costa Rica; Denmark; Estonia; Liechtenstein; Netherlands; Poland; United States	10
Accountability & the ICC	Antigua and Barbuda; Armenia; Bangladesh; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Bulgaria; Burundi; Canada; Colombia; Costa Rica; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Ethiopia European Union; Finland; Germany; Grenada; Guatemala; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland; Lebanon; Lesotho; Liberia; Libya; Liechtenstein; Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands; Rwanda; Samoa; Slovakia; Slovenia; Somalia; South Sudan; Sudan; Sweden; Switzerland; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia; Uganda; United Republic of Tanzania	45
National R2P Focal Points	Costa Rica; Demark	2
UNSC Veto	Chile; Costa Rica; Croatia; France; Liechtenstein; Mexico; New Zealand; Netherlands; Slovenia	9
UNSC Reform	Angola; Algeria; Benin; Bhutan; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Brazil; Bulgaria; Cambodia; Cape Verde; Chad; Chile; Croatia; Cuba; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Denmark; Egypt; Equatorial Guinea; Gabon; The Gambia; Germany; Ghana; India; Iraq; Italy; Japan; Kyrgyzstan; Lebanon; Libya; Liechtenstein; Maldives; Mali; Mauritius; Mexico; Montenegro; Mozambique; Namibia; Nepal; New Zealand; Nigeria; Pakistan; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Republic of Congo; St. Lucia; Samoa; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Slovenia; Solomon Islands; South Africa; Spain; Sudan; Swaziland; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom; United Republic of Tanzania; Zambia; Zimbabwe	65

<p>Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)</p>	<p>Antigua and Barbuda; Australia; Austria; Bahamas; Bangladesh; Barbados; Belize; Benin; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Cambodia; Costa Rica; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Dominica; Estonia; Finland; Gabon; Ghana; Grenada; Guyana; Iceland; Italy; Jamaica; Liechtenstein; Luxembourg; Mexico; Moldova; Montenegro; Nepal; New Zealand; Nigeria; Papua New Guinea; Romania; St. Kitts and Nevis; St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Samoa; Serbia; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Slovakia; Solomon Islands; Spain; Trinidad and Tobago; United Kingdom</p>	<p>46</p>
<p>Concerns with the use of force</p>	<p>Antigua and Barbuda; Austria; Brazil; Chad; Democratic People’s Republic of Korea; Equatorial Guinea; The Gambia; Guinea-Bissau; Guyana; Iran; Iraq; Russian Federation; State of Palestine; Syria; Turkmenistan; Venezuela</p>	<p>16</p>

TOTAL NUMBER OF SPEAKERS: 195

The quotes below appeared in speeches delivered by government heads of state and ministers during the opening of the general assembly and are relevant to the Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

DIRECT REFERENCE TO R2P

Australia

“The first obligation of any government is to protect its own citizens. In 2005, leaders of all UN member states signed up to this principle in the World Summit outcome on the **Responsibility to Protect.**”

Belgium

“My country believes that we have equally, among our responsibilities, the **“responsibility to protect.”** Meaning to prevent and fight these crimes, particularly hideous that are genocides, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. In this sense, Belgium supports completely the action of the United Nations.”

Botswana

“My delegation wishes to reiterate the point that States have a duty and a **Responsibility to Protect** their populations against impunity, war crimes and crimes against humanity. In situations where it is clearly evident that States have failed or are unwilling to exercise their **Responsibility to Protect**, then it is only fair and proper that the international community should intervene. Here of

course I refer mainly to the responsibility of the UN Security Council.”

Chile

“I mention in particular our full respect for international law, the inviolability of treaties, legal equality among States, peaceful settlement of disputes and self-determination of peoples, all of which are the essential foundations of international stability and peaceful coexistence among nations. In our opinion, however, they should be complemented by the notion of **the “responsibility to protect”**. This concept considers as a primary duty to protect the population within its borders. And if a state cannot or does not want to accomplish with this primary duty, then the international community can intervene within the frame of its three accepted pillars: prevention, support of the international community in this task and the proportional use of force, but always in accordance with the United Nation Charter, as a last resort and when strictly essential to prevent or deter genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing or crimes against humanity.”

Costa Rica

“The Syrian tragedy reaffirms the necessity to work decisively towards the organic application of the **responsibility to protect** and to promote the use of mediation to avoid the emergence or accentuation of conflicts. As a concrete measure towards such avoidance, we urge all member states to join the initiative of Australia, Costa Rica, Denmark and Ghana, and designate national focal points for the prevention of atrocities and on **responsibility to protect.**”

Czech Republic

“The United Nations has always played a key role in defusing armed conflicts between and within the Member States. Its role in helping to resolve the conflict in Syria is crucial. The confirmed use of chemical weapons in Syria is deeply worrying. Any use of chemical weapons is unacceptable. Whoever gave the order to initiate the chemical attack has gravely violated the principle of **responsibility to protect** the civilian population.”

Denmark

“Advancing the **primary responsibility of states to protect their populations** should be a concern of all governments. The **responsibility to protect** is consistent with existing obligations and international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law which are binding on all States. Denmark calls on Member States to join the global network of "**Responsibility to Protect**" focal points that work to integrate atrocity prevention in national policies and to engage with other Member States and regional organizations to build capacity and cooperation before crises and conflicts break out.”

Estonia

“It is the **responsibility of the international community to protect**, if a government fails to do so.”

Finland

“We also have more traditional security challenges at hand. The conflict in Syria has seriously undermined the authority and credibility of the United Nations. The United Nations has not been able to act in its core domain, in maintaining peace and security. Both the Syrian government and the international community have failed to implement their **Responsibility to Protect**.”

Guatemala

“As non-permanent member of the Security Council we have taken a position towards the recent crisis in Syria. In this regards, we have condemned the massacre against more than one thousand persons murdered with the use of chemical weapons and have demanded that a crime of this magnitude cannot remain with impunity. We have also called for a categorical response of the international community to avoid that these deplorable acts be

repeated. Consistent with this position, we have supported the leadership of President Obama, who has clearly expressed that peace in Syria and in the whole Middle East must be built in the framework of a political and diplomatic dialogue, but without abandoning our international **responsibility to protect** the citizens of those countries and of the world posed by the threat of nuclear and chemical arms.”

Holy See

“What has perhaps been missing for too long is the courage of Member-States to prioritize the resolution of the conflict in international commitment. The UNSG recently mentioned the “collective failure” of the IC in its capacity to prevent and avoid atrocity committed in Syria. On this topic, I wish to remind you of the concept of “**responsibility to protect**” that the SG also referred to, and to underline the importance it has for the Holy See. Indeed, the adoption of the political and judicial concept of the “national and international **responsibility to protect** populations from crimes of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity” during the 14-15 September 2005 World Summit, was a great advance of the IC. Unfortunately, the “**responsibility to protect**” has at times been misunderstood, as if it somehow justified the use of force, while in reality it means something quite different. It is a profound and imperative spirit of solidarity, which invites all, starting with Nations, to feel as their own the serious humanitarian crises where they happen and to commit in order to immediately deploy the entirety of available means – diplomatic, economic, public opinion, as well as the mechanisms prescribed by the UN Charter – with the aim of attaining an effective solution. In an active continuation of the debate on the “**responsibility to protect**”, it would be desirable to engage in sincere reflection on how to explicitly include this concept in the Security Council’s mandate in article 24 of the UN Charter, and, possibly, in the case of article 29 relative to action in the case of breach of the peace....”

A pacific and lasting solution to the Syrian conflict would create a significant precedent for the present century, would mark the road to face other conflicts that the international community has yet to resolve, would greatly ease the inclusion of the “**responsibility to protect**” principle in the UN Charter...”

Iceland

“It is the **primary responsibility of all Governments to protect their citizens**. A few weeks

ago, the world witnessed the use of chemical weapons in Syria. It is hard to find words strong enough to express our condemnation. International law has been broken, war crimes committed and globally agreed values have been shattered. Those responsible must be held accountable and should answer to the International Criminal Court.”

Lesotho

“A decade has passed since the initiation of the notion of **“The Responsibility to Protect”**. Yet, operationalisation of this concept has not become a reality. The fact that crimes of mass atrocity continue to be committed around the world is a stark reminder that, the time for a collective approach to protecting populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity is now. Mass atrocities do not often occur spontaneously, but rather as part of a planned process. Over the years we have learned an important lesson that this Organization cannot stand on the sidelines when challenged to take preventive action. In so doing, we should guard against misuse and abuse of the norm of **responsibility to protect** by infringing on national sovereignty or altering the legal obligation of Member States to refrain from the use of force except in conformity with the UN Charter”

Libya

“The tragic developments taking place in Syria are of imperative need for the international community to put an end to this human tragedy, and stop the bloodshed and the systematic destruction; therefore, we reiterate our call to the UN Security Council to act in accordance with the concept of the **Responsibility To Protect**, in order to find a solution to the problem, through consensus among its members, to save the Syrian people from daily massacres and help in achieving their legitimate demands.”

Liechtenstein

“Liechtenstein firmly believes in the **responsibility to protect** populations from atrocity crimes (**R2P**). Clearly, we have much work to do to put this norm into practice. Our inability to respond to the crisis in Syria demonstrates a crucial weakness in the system: the use of the veto, or its threat, in a manner incompatible with the purposes of the United Nations. This can make the Security Council irrelevant at times when it is most urgently needed. During this general debate, the President of France has suggested a common code of

conduct for Permanent Members of the Security Council. We strongly agree with this proposal. All five Permanent Members should be able to give the world one public commitment: that they will not use their veto to block action aimed at ending or preventing atrocity crimes. This would be crucial to enhance the Council's effectiveness - and its credibility.”

Luxembourg

“Each day since January 1 2013, Luxembourg is working hard, in concert with its partners, to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security; to assume this common responsibility which is ours: the **responsibility to prevent, to preserve and to protect.**”

Montenegro

“Montenegro supports promoting the **Responsibility to Protect** concept and its operationalization, including prevention as its integral part. We are in favour of continuing a debate on the responsibility of the international community to take a timely and decisive action to prevent mass killings.”

Netherlands

“The situation in Syria poses a clear threat to international peace and security. The Netherlands calls on the UN Security Council to take concerted action to address this threat. And what have just heard from Australia what is going to happen today. Syria does not comply with the international norm that requires it to protect its citizens. But the international community also has a responsibility. The Netherlands supports the proposal that permanent Security Council members should henceforth refrain from using their vetoes in votes on intervention to stop the mass atrocity crimes identified by the 2005 world summit. They should show they are serious about their **responsibility to protect** vulnerable populations, underlining our consensus that genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing must never be tolerated...”

Thirdly, we must reduce the obstacles to the peaceful settlement of disputes by making alternatives available. This is why the Netherlands enthusiastically supports the UN Department of Political Affairs and NGOs that promote mediation. In his 2011 report on the **Responsibility to Protect**, the Secretary-General

rightly pointed out the importance of mediation as a means of preventing atrocity crimes.”

Poland

“The Syrian tragedy, including the use of chemical weapons, is symbolic of a broader phenomenon, the ignoring of international values, norms and obligations adopted by our organization and the entire international community. After all, they should apply to everybody to the same degree, with no-one set outside or above them. Too often, the immediate national interests of countries have the upper hand which leads to tragic consequences in terms of human rights and humanitarian issues, including the principle of the **responsibility to protect**, which we had such high hopes for once it was adopted in 2005...

It is necessary to establish a mechanism which would, in an objective and uncontroversial manner, force harmonious cooperation between the permanent members of the UNSC in the face of situations which fall under the **responsibility to protect** principle, in order to make sure that the prevention of such crimes and the effective response to them prevail over individual geopolitical interests.”

Romania

“Romania welcomes and supports the efforts of coordination at UN level of the cross-cutting and multi-dimensional rule of law approach. At the same time, my country supports step by step implementation of **the responsibility to protect** concept starting with strengthening on the capacities at regional level and the early warning and preventive functions.”

Slovenia

“Less than twenty years ago, we witnessed events that shocked our human conscience: genocide in Rwanda, followed by Srebrenica and Darfur. We should have learned lasting lessons from these horrific events. We vowed never to let this happen again. We collectively endorsed the **responsibility to protect** human beings from mass atrocities and gross and systematic violations of human rights... Sovereignty as responsibility implies that states are responsible for the wellbeing of their citizens. It does not give them a license to kill their own citizens. If states manifestly fail to protect their population, the international community has a responsibility to react. When faced with mass atrocities, indifference is not and will not represent an option.”

Solomon Islands

“On human rights, Solomon Islands recognizes that all states bear the **responsibility to protect** their citizens. We believe, all states must take feasible steps in ensuring the rights of their people are protected. Solomon Islands in this regard, condemn all human rights violation against civilians wherever it may occur.”

Syria

“Instead of settling regional and international conflicts by peaceful means, some known countries continued pursuing aggressive policies against certain nations. Political hypocrisy increased to intervene in the domestic affairs of states under the pretext of Humanitarian Intervention or the **Responsibility to Protect**; and when those aggressive policies did not prove beneficial for some countries, like my Own country, **Syria**, these well-known states revealed their true face, and threatened with blatant military aggression outside the mandate Security Council, and certainly away from any international consensus. This comes as those same countries imposed immoral, illegal and unilateral coercive measures...

On the other hand, are some of the Member States entitled to demand the Syrian state to ignore its constitutional **responsibilities to protect** its citizens and to preserve the country's unity, sovereignty and independence?

INDIRECT REFERENCE TO R2P

United States of America

“...sovereignty cannot be a shield for tyrants to commit wanton murder, or an excuse for the international community to turn a blind eye to slaughter. While we need to be modest in our belief that we can remedy every evil, and we need to be mindful that the world is full of unintended consequences, should we really accept the notion that the world is powerless in the face of a Rwanda or Srebrenica?...”

I believe we can embrace a different future. If we don't want to choose between inaction and war, we must get better – all of us – at the policies that prevent the breakdown of basic order. Through respect for the responsibilities of nations and the rights of individuals. Through meaningful sanctions for those who break the

rules. Through dogged diplomacy that resolves the root causes of conflict, and not merely its aftermath. Through development assistance that brings hope to the marginalized. And yes, sometimes, all this will not be enough – and in such moments, the international community will need to acknowledge that the multilateral use of military force may be required to prevent the very worst from occurring.”

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC

Syria

Afghanistan

“In Syria, we watch the ongoing immeasurable suffering of the great people of that country. Afghanistan calls for an immediate halt to the violence there that has taken the lives of over a hundred thousand people, has forced over 2 million Syrians to become refugees; and has left 6.8 million people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. We strongly support a political solution, reached through a broad-based national dialogue that meets the aspirations of all Syrians. Moreover, the international community must provide necessary support to address the humanitarian needs of those affected by the conflict, including the millions who have sought refuge in neighboring countries.”

Albania

“I wish I could avoid in this statement of hope to have to speak about one of the most terrible human tragedies of our times, which is unfolding before our eyes since two and a half years. It has taken more than 100 thousands of human lives; it is destroying a whole generation and has brought a country to ruins. The recent large-scale use of chemical weapons constitutes a despicable crime, a crime against humanity, which should not and must not remain unpunished. Yet even within such a bleak picture, a glimpse of hope has been born. The Security Council has finally adopted yesterday a resolution on the removal and destruction of chemical weapons in **Syria**, which we welcome. It must now be quickly and fully implemented.”

Algeria

“Algeria reaffirms its rejection of the threat or use of weapons of massive destruction. In this regard, it condemns the use of chemical weapons by whatever

actors in the Syrian conflict and whatever the circumstances. In welcoming the initiative of Russia and the agreement between Russia and the United States for Syria to adhere to the Convention on the Prohibition of chemical, Algeria calls for political dynamics leading to the holding of the Geneva Conference II and achieving a political solution between the Syrian parties. We reiterate our encouragement and support Lakhdar Brahimi in the conduct of his peace efforts.”

Andorra

“A year ago, we used this platform to express our deep concern about the Civil War in Syria, and in particular, the devastating effects that this conflict was having on the Syrian population. We said that this conflict was putting the international community in a terrible dilemma: finding the right balance between the search of a diplomatic resolution and the respect of the rule of law.”

Angola

“The conflict in Syria poses a risk to international peace and security, and the violence seriously worsens the humanitarian situation in the region. We call on the international community to act urgently in order to find a peaceful solution to the conflict, under the mediation of the United Nations and the Arab League, and we urge respect for the human rights of civilians.”

Antigua and Barbuda

“The continued unrest in the Middle East and particularly in Syria is heartbreaking. The images of women and children being displaced and innocently killed, tug at my consciousness. Antigua and Barbuda gives its unconditional support to the preservation of the role of the United Nations and other organizations in working toward stabilization and peace in Syria and other conflict-ridden countries.”

Argentina

“...peace and security are not military concepts, but rather political ones. Therefore we welcome the fact that an agreement has been reached on the question of Syria. We objected to direct intervention, to a bombing...why not call for an arms embargo two years ago to prevent so many deaths? Well, that’s for those who sold weapons [to Syria] to answer.”

Armenia

“Armenia remains alarmed by the worsening of the humanitarian situation in Syria. The number of refugees Armenia continues to receive already exceeds ten thousand, but tens of thousands of Syrian-Armenians still remain in that country that has become their second home after the Genocide of 1915, and they are struggling for their survival in unbearable conditions together with their Syrian countrymen. Armenia welcomes the resolution of the Security Council 2118 adopted unanimously yesterday based on the agreement reached in Geneva between Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov and US Secretary of State Kerry, which could lead to the elimination of chemical weapons and exclusion of their use in Syria and could pave the way to a political solution of the Syrian crisis, putting an end to the sufferings of the Syrian people.”

Australia

“The situation in Syria is an urgent security and humanitarian crisis we must address. Left unchecked, it will continue to cause great human suffering and further destabilize the region. Along with the rest of the world, Australia has condemned the horrific chemical weapons attack on 21 August, as we have condemned the Assad regime's use of conventional weapons against its own people...The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons now needs strong international support for its role in the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons. Australia will also continue to press for the Council to take action to assist the humanitarian effort in Syria. And of course provide our full backing to efforts to find a political solution in accordance with the Geneva Communiqué that leads to a cessation of violence and a political transition which meets the aspirations of all Syrians.”

Austria

“While we welcomed the agreement reached between the United States and the Russian Federation on a framework for the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons arsenal, we believe the Security Council should refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court. Accountability is necessary to stop the atrocities and prevent future crimes. The path to democratic participation and a new beginning in Syria, the actual goal of the civilian protests two and a half years ago, remains crucial...Unfortunately, the parties seem to be firmly set on a military solution to the conflict. However

it should clear that best way to achieving a sustainable solution can only be a political, negotiated one.”

Azerbaijan

“We welcome the adoption yesterday of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) regarding the safeguarding and destruction of Syria's chemical weapons stockpiles. We hope that the unanimous and strong position demonstrated by the Council will contribute to finding a political solution to the conflict in Syria, putting an end to the suffering inflicted on the Syrian people and ensuring compliance by the parties concerned with their obligations and commitments under international law. Azerbaijan strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons in Syria, particularly the killing of civilians that resulted from it. Resolution 2118 (2013) affirmed that the use of chemical weapons constitutes a serious violation of international law and also qualified such act as a threat to international peace and security. By endorsing the Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012 and calling for convening of an international conference on Syria, the Security Council paved the way for achieving peaceful transition, stability and reconciliation. It is imperative that all parties cease armed violence, engage constructively in the political process and commit to the implementation of the Geneva Communiqué.”

Bahrain

“Desirous of seeing stability restored in the Syrian Arab Republic, and cognizant of the right of the Syrian people to choose their own political system, the GCC countries welcome diplomatic steps towards destroying the Syrian chemical arsenal, the agreement reached by the United States and Russia, as well as Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) of September 27, 2013, which calls on all parties concerned to take serious and concrete steps to address the Syrian crisis and its repercussions...All this should be complemented by an integrated political process towards realizing the aspirations of the Syrian people for democracy and political pluralism. We invite the United Nations and the international community to shoulder their responsibilities by taking the appropriate deterrent measures to halt the serious violations of human rights to which the Syrian people are subjected to and to put an end to the crime of genocide perpetrated by all kinds of lethal weapons that have so far claimed more than a hundred thousand martyrs and injured, as well as causing millions of refugees and internally displaced persons.”

Barbados

“We are yet more concerned that the threshold of what constitutes an acceptable level of violence and acceptable levels of atrocity grows higher and higher. The findings of the UN Inspection Team that chemical weapons were used in Syria are alarming. My country believes that the perpetrators of these acts must be brought to account. Moreover we believe that the international community must work in good faith to find a political solution to the escalating and ongoing humanitarian crisis in Syria.”

Belgium

“Almost 100 years later, this same suffering afflicts nowadays millions of Syrians. And despite the international protocol of 1925 that interdicts the use of chemical weapons...One year ago I mentioned 30,000 Syrian dead. Today there are 120,000...In all humbleness; I call everyone to take on responsibility at the Security Council to reestablish peace everywhere where deadly conflicts take place. That is why Belgium supports the efforts of Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Joint Envoy of the UN and the Arab League for Syria, for trying to bring parties to the negotiation table. I salute in this regard the American-Russian initiative for a Geneva II conference...The restoration of peace can never be built on amnesty and oblivion for the worst crimes. With 56 other states, Belgium has called for the Syrian dossier to be taken to the International Criminal Court. The Court’s action contributes to the advent of a time of responsibility.”

Belize

“As responsible citizens of the world we condemn the use of chemical weapons and we welcome the framework agreement led by Russia and the United States of America and supported by the Security Council that should lead to the removal of all chemical and biological weapons from **Syria**.”

Benin

“...the atrocities that occur here and there, sometimes as appalling in scale as in Syria recently with the use of prohibited chemical weapons that we condemn in the strongest terms.”

Bosnia and Herzegovina

“...gravely concerned about the continuous violence in Syria that has led to worsening of the humanitarian crisis

and caused unacceptable suffering of the Syrian people, and is asking all parties to fulfill all of their obligations in accordance with international law and human rights.”

Botswana

“We remain deeply concerned that Syria continues to be soaked in the blood of its citizens. We therefore wish to register our disappointment with those Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council, who continue to frustrate resolutions aimed at interventions that could find a lasting solution to the ongoing carnage in Syria. Despite the ever worsening humanitarian situation in that country, it is extremely saddening that the international community continues to turn a blind eye to that situation. If this state of affairs continues, we fear that a humanitarian catastrophe of epic proportions will unfold and haunt humanity for many generations to come. In this regard, we wish to reiterate our position that punitive action in whatever form should be taken against Assad's regime for committing crimes against humanity. We once again, appeal to the Security Council, as the body with Charter responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security to take decisive action, once and for all, to end the human suffering in Syria.”

Brazil

“The crisis in Syria moves us and is cause for indignation. Two and a half years of lives lost and widespread destruction have caused the greatest humanitarian disaster of the century. Brazil, which has in Syrian descent an important component of our nationality, is profoundly involved with this drama. We must stop the death of innocent civilians, of children, women and the elderly. We must cease the use of arms - conventional or chemical, by the government or the rebels.

There is no military outcome. The only solution is through negotiation, dialogue and understanding. The decision of Syria to adhere to the Chemical Weapons Convention and to immediately apply its provisions is of great importance. This measure is instrumental to overcome the conflict and to contribute to a world free of those arms. Their use, I repeat, is heinous and inadmissible under any circumstances. For this reason, we support the agreement reached between the United States and Russia for elimination of Syrian chemical weapons. It is up to the Syrian government to implement this agreement fully, cooperatively and in good faith.”

Brunei Darussalam

“The worsening situation in Syria continues to be of serious concern. We join the international community in condemning the use of chemical weapons, which has caused the loss of lives in the country. More importantly, we support all efforts, particularly by the UN, in finding a peaceful solution to the crisis. In this regard, we welcome the US - Russia Framework for the Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons and the recent adoption of the UN Security Council resolution on Syria.”

Bulgaria

“The situation in Syria continues to be a major cause of concern and a risk to regional and global security. Bulgaria strongly condemns the chemical attack of August 21 that took the lives of thousands of innocent people including children. The use of chemical weapons in Syria constitutes a blatant violation of international law, a war crime, and a crime against humanity...There can be no impunity, and the perpetrators of this heinous attack must be held accountable. Bulgaria, who is one of the countries that signed a letter urging the UN Security Council to immediately refer the situation in Syria to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, joins similar calls, coming from the UN Secretary General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights.”

Burkina Faso

“Outside of the African continent, the situation that prevails in the Syrian Arab Republic urgently calls for an immediate end to hostilities and the search for political solutions to the crisis. Also, we encourage the implementation of American-Russian agreement of 14 September 2013 for the control and dismantling of chemical weapons.”

Burundi

“For Syria, Burundi believes that the international community should do everything possible to bring all parties to cease hostilities to resolve their differences peacefully.”

Cambodia

“In regard to the Syria situation, we condemn in the strongest terms the use of chemical weapons and all human rights violations in Syria. Cambodia welcomes Resolution 2118 (2013) adopted by the Security Council on 27 September 2013 to destroy Syria's chemical

weapons. We support the ongoing efforts of the international community, notably the United Nations, to promote a peaceful and viable solution to the situation in the country.”

Canada

“Among the most urgent crises remains the violence in Syria. Canada's position is clear. We support the Syrian people, the innocent people caught up in this senseless violence, and those who work on their behalf. We will never support a brutal and illegitimate regime that has unleashed weapons of mass destruction on its own people. Nor will we tolerate extremism and terrorism as alternatives to Assad's tyranny...Canada joins the entire world in seeking a political resolution to the conflict. Canada supports a peaceful, democratic and pluralistic Syria that protects the rights of all communities. But let us not confuse a peaceful, negotiated outcome with equivocation or moral uncertainty. There can be no moral ambiguity about the use of chemical weapons on civilians.”

Cape Verde

“One more comment to all for us to position ourselves, following the United Nations Experts Report, against the criminal and unacceptable use of chemical weapons in Syria, which we have followed with great attention. We welcome the progress made towards dialogue, particularly the joint search for peaceful solutions, especially at the United Nations.”

Central African Republic

“The drama that the Syrian people have lived for more than two years should challenge international community. The use of chemical weapons against the civilian population must be strongly condemned. That is why my country supports the ongoing activities for the decommissioning of chemical weapons in Syria in the diplomatic option favoring the resolution of this crisis.”

Chad

“Regarding the situation in Syria, it concerns us and calls us all, because the hour is particularly grave. We have no right to let an entire people go to wreck. The use of chemical weapons, which denotes a dramatic escalation of the civil war in that country, is an affront to human conscience and ideals that led to the birth of our Organization. While welcoming the agreement reached between the United States and Russia on the destruction

of Syrian chemical weapons, my country wants the perpetrators of these crimes identified and brought before an international tribunal. However, our bitterness is great to see Syria destroy itself and Syrians killed. The international community must use all means to stop this tragedy.”

Chile

“...we strongly condemn the use of the chemical weapons in Syria, as well as the indiscriminate use of force against the civilian population which has to date produced thousands of innocent victims, including women and children, and caused a serious humanitarian crisis wounding the universal conscience and seriously threatening peace and international security. We therefore welcome and strongly support the Framework Agreement for the Elimination of Chemical Weapons in Syria, concluded recently by the United States and Russia, as well as the efforts made by the Secretary-General of this Organization and the special envoy of the United Nations and the Arab League to reach a peaceful and lasting solution to this very serious armed conflict as soon as possible.”

China

“Turmoil in Syria has lasted for nearly three years, causing great suffering and trauma to both the Syrian people and Syria's neighbors. The recent use of chemical weapons has met universal condemnation. China firmly opposes the use of chemical weapons. We hope to see an early adoption of a UN Security Council resolution to support the OPCW in launching the verification and destruction of chemical weapons and we stand ready to make financial contribution to the OPCW for the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria. China calls for an immediate end to hostilities and violence in Syria so as to create necessary conditions for the verification and destruction of chemical weapons. We call for the early convening of the Geneva II conference and faster progress in a political resolution of the Syrian issue. China seeks no self-gains in Syria and does not take side on the Syrian issue. We respect the aspirations and choice of the Syrian people. China follows the humanitarian situation in Syria with great concern. We have provided and will continue to provide assistance within our means to the Syrian people, including Syrian refugees outside the country.”

Comoros

“The crisis in Syria for two and a half years, with lots of distress and human drama, should challenge us to reach an early settlement of the conflict and end, as well, the suffering of the Syrian people. We condemn firmly, the use, in Syria, of chemical weapons against innocent people, just as we condemn with the same energy, the actors of this horrible act.”

Costa Rica

“During two years, the tragedy of Syria has been a major source of suffering and concern. The incessant count of massacred and displaced persons has been as troublesome as the lack of action of the international community, particularly the Security Council, in containing these outrages against humanity. After a period of paralysis and confusion, it seems that, at last, we are approaching a solution to this stalemate. I raise our voice to demand that the Security Council act decisively to eliminate chemical weaponry in Syria, restrain violence, seek a negotiated and democratic solution to the conflict, and make accountable those responsible for the horrible crimes committed there. Costa Rica insists that the Security Council refers the Syrian case to the International Criminal Court...The Syrian tragedy reaffirms the necessity to work decisively towards the organic application of the **responsibility to protect**, and to promote the use of mediation to avoid the emergence or accentuation of conflicts.”

Croatia

“The on-going security and humanitarian catastrophe in Syria with all its ill effects and regionally destabilizing potential is naturally foremost on our minds. We are saddened by the tremendous loss of life as a result of this on-going conflict. We are particularly appalled and concerned with the findings and conclusions of the UN Mission's Report on the use of chemical weapons in Ghouta Area on 21 August. Croatia condemns in the strongest terms the use of chemical weapons. The international community must make sure that there is no impunity for such crimes and that the perpetrators of these and other crimes be held to account. We welcome the US-Russia Framework [for Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons] of 14 September 2013. The priority must now be to provide for its prompt and full implementation, starting with a process at the Security Council and soonest possible adoption of the relevant Council's resolution.”

Cuba

“Therefore, in recent days, after the situation in Syria worsened, CELAC reiterated its vocation for peace and observance of the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and International Law, including the International Humanitarian Law, and demanded that the necessary conditions are created to move on towards a negotiated political solution to the Syrian conflict, which has taken a toll on the lives of thousands of innocent people.”

Czech Republic

“The United Nations has always played a key role in defusing armed conflicts between and within the Member States. Its role in helping to resolve the conflict in Syria is crucial. The confirmed use of chemical weapons in Syria is deeply worrying. Any use of chemical weapons is unacceptable. Whoever gave the order to initiate the chemical attack has gravely violated the principle of **responsibility to protect** the civilian population. This constitutes a war crime and a crime against humanity and its perpetrators should be held accountable before the International Criminal Court.

The Czech Republic welcomes the decision of the Executive Council of the GPCW on the expeditious destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons, which is now being adopted in the Hague, and looks forward to the adoption of the UN Security Council resolution on this issue in the next hours.

The conflict does not have a military solution only politically negotiated settlement will reinstall peace in Syria. The Czech Republic calls on all parties and especially on the Syrian government to fully implement the 2012 Geneva Communiqué. The Czech Republic is supporting and will continue to support the efforts of the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross to relieve the growing humanitarian needs in Syria and in the neighbouring countries.”

Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

“Unjust intervention, pressure and use of force, what is unfolding in Syria in the form of infringements of its sovereignty and territorial integrity further breaching peace and stability, should not be allowed in any case...”

Denmark

“The unacceptable suffering in Syria is a tragic reminder of the consequences when no early action to prevent atrocity crimes is undertaken...While the Security Council last Friday took an important step to address the crisis in Syria, Denmark reiterates its call on the Council to refer the case of Syria to the International Criminal Court...”

We condemn the indiscriminate violence that we witness in Syria. Not only does it harm the civilians in the most tragic way, it also undermines regional stability as a whole. With the conflict in Syria, we are confronted with a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented proportions. Last month the world witnessed a further escalation of the conflict with the horrendous chemical attack in Ghouta. Denmark strongly condemns all use of chemical weapons, and we are convinced that a strong international reaction is required. It is crucial that those responsible for this grave violation of international law will be brought to justice and that future use of chemical weapons is effectively prevented. From the very outset of the tragedy in Syria, Denmark has emphasized the need for a political solution to end the human suffering. We welcome the adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 2118 on the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons. Denmark continues to strongly support the efforts towards a Geneva II conference.”

Dominica

“The ongoing civil war in Syria continues to present a major challenge to the international community. The Commonwealth of Dominica joins CARICOM in condemning unreservedly the use of chemical weapons which is a gross violation of international law.”

Ecuador

“Ecuador has stated since the outset that a military solution is not a solution to the crisis in Syria...Ecuador considers Syria’s recent accession to the Convention on the Prohibition on the Development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, and on their destruction, to be positive. Ecuador looks forward to the final outcomes of the inquiries by the UN...only on the basis of these results can the international community have a sufficient and credible basis on which to take action.”

Egypt

“In Syria, the tragedy has reached the point of resorting to chemical weapons. We condemn their use. We view with interest the agreement reached between Russia and the United States in light of our belief in the necessity of addressing the broader context of the crisis in Syria. While the humanitarian crisis resulting from the raging fighting is unfolding, the Syrian state itself is on the verge of disintegration. It is imperative to reach an urgent political solution. One that would realize the freedom, dignity, and democracy the people of Syria aspire to, and preserve the unity of the state. We hope that this could be achieved through the holding of the Geneva 2 conference, so that a transitional authority can be put in place to end the civil war, as well as the foreign interventions which we have for long warned against.”

El Salvador

“Similarly, diplomatic support in favor of an early peaceful solution to the conflict in Syria. We condemn the use of chemical weapons and endorse the agreement between Russia and the United States, under the United Nations supervision, these chemical weapons are destroyed.”

Equatorial Guinea

“With relation to the situation in Syria, we regret and condemn the use of chemical weapons and the escalation of violence fed by opaque interests that have decimated the people for alleged internal problems...we call for an immediate cessation and withdrawal of those countries involved in this conflict to honor and respect the Syrian people and the responsibility that is incumbent of the bodies of the UN in maintaining peace and security in the world. The intervention should be the passive and focused on the destruction of the chemical weapons that the United Nations must demand of the government of Syria.”

Estonia

“Let me start with what is clearly and without a doubt the most unsustainable situation in the world at the moment: the conflict in Syria...the use of chemical weapons is unacceptable under any circumstances and requires complete and unreserved condemnation. It is clear that chemical weapons must be destroyed quickly and verifiably. Therefore the OPCW and Security Council needs to move forward and agree on the legally

binding terms to resolve this issue, preferably under Chapter 7 of the Charter, and so as soon as possible...

Evidence collected by the UN Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry indicates that war crimes, crimes against humanity and gross human rights violations have been systematically committed in Syria. Estonia was among the countries to join the Swiss initiative in January, asking the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the ICC. It is the responsibility of the international community to protect, if a government fails to do so.”

European Union (EU)

“A year ago when we met in this General Assembly, we joined our voices to deplore that the Syrian civil war had claimed over twenty five thousand lives. One year on, it has killed over a hundred thousand men, women and children... We cannot let this spiral of criminal, sectarian violence pursue its dreadful course at the heart of the world's most unstable region. What will the situation be, when we meet again next year? Any further paralysis of the international community over Syria is simply untenable. It was already true this summer, but worse was yet to come ... Five weeks ago, in the outskirts of Damascus, a new threshold of tragedy, a crime against humanity; and in response the stakes were raised.

Today we are in a new situation. The European Union welcomes the diplomatic opening created in order to control and destroy Syria's chemical weapons. It is important in itself: we absolutely must avoid a dreadful precedent being set on the use of chemical weapons - an abhorrent crime against humanity. The role of the United Nations in this respect is indispensable, and has been underscored time and again by the 28 governments of the European Union.

...it is urgent for the Security Council, together with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, to take the necessary decisions to ensure the swift and secure destruction of Syria's poison gas and nerve agent stocks. A clear resolution by the Security Council would mark a turn, and I plea for its adoption.

There must be ways to open up opportunities. But when new opportunities arise, we must seize them. Only then will we see the outlook improve for Syria. Now is indeed the moment to work actively towards "Geneva II".”

Finland

“Second, we are facing a failure of the United Nations to act in its core domain, in maintaining peace and security. 110 000 people have been killed and 2 million people have been forced to leave their homes in Syria, where a tragic civil war has been going on for two years. The United Nations has been unable to act to end this appalling bloodshed. This is another major challenge for the credibility of the United Nations...We also have more traditional security challenges at hand. The conflict in Syria has seriously undermined the authority and credibility of the United Nations. The United Nations has not been able to act in its core domain, in maintaining peace and security. Both the Syrian government and the international community have failed to implement their **Responsibility to Protect**.

The situation in Syria started as a peaceful and justified call for reforms. The government's response then turned it into an increasingly violent conflict and a breeding ground for terrorist extremism. This has led to humanitarian suffering, which has already reached historical proportions. The use of chemical weapons on August 21st near Damascus can be a turning point for the conflict. The universal condemnation of their use as a war crime for which those responsible must be brought to justice through referral to the International Criminal Court. Finland welcomes the agreement reached on a strongly worded Security Council resolution to collect and destroy chemical weapons in Syria under international control. There can be no impunity for the perpetrators of war crimes and other atrocities. This agreement must be followed through with a political solution to the conflict. It is the only way to stop the violence...

The humanitarian suffering of the Syrian people continues. We all have to intensify our work to help the refugees and support the neighboring countries bearing the heaviest burdens. The United Nations will have to have a strong presence in Syria also after the arms have silenced. Finland stands ready to contribute to a possible UN peacekeeping operation to be established in Syria.”

France

“In Syria, there is urgency. 120,000 people have died, 90,000 last year. A quarter of the population is displaced. Two million Syrians are refugees. The country is destroyed. On August 21st, in Damascus, the worst has been realized with the use of chemical weapons against

civilians, women and children. The UN inspectors have established this reliably and unquestionable. France wanted a strong reaction to respond to this despicable crime, and to deter the regime of Basher al-Assad to commit new massacres. This pressure has produced initial results.”

Gabon

“The crisis in Syria has already caused many casualties, and has escalated with the unacceptable use of chemical weapons. We strongly condemn the use of these weapons, and Gabon calls for the destruction of all chemical arsenals in the world. For the purposes of the investigation lead by UN inspectors in Syria, we call on the parties to cooperate fully. Moreover, Gabon supports all efforts diplomacy in favor of a political process to resolve the crisis. The Security Council should take action if these efforts are hampered.”

The Gambia

“My government supports the view that the regional organizations in the Middle East should be closely involved in such negotiations for a resolution of the crisis in Syria. The tragedy unfolding in Syria has become a scar on our conscience as a civilized people and this war must be stopped by all means necessary. All that we hear is the talk about chemical weapons and the need to ensure that they are not used by anyone. This does not make any sense as long as this barbaric war has not been to an end immediately. Whether chemical weapons are used or not thousands of people would continue to die in the most horrific manner, it is the same horrific and senseless death and our duty is not to choose what form of death is acceptable and what not. Our duty is to stop the senseless and barbaric killings in Syria. We as the UN must end this war immediately otherwise the people of Syria would continue to perish at the hands of these satanic barbaric forces. The UN security Council and all the powers behind the war in Syria must not only prevent the use of chemical weapons but must also bring this brutal war to an immediate end without preconditions.”

Germany

“In Syria the people took to the streets to protest against a repressive regime. For more than two years now, the regime's response has been brutal violence which has brought countless deaths, immeasurable suffering and terrible destruction on the Syrian people and which is now jeopardizing stability in the entire region...We must use the opportunities for a political process offered by the

agreement on destroying the chemical weapons. After all, people in Syria are still being killed every day by conventional weapons. But there will be no military solution in Syria. Only a political solution will bring lasting peace to Syria. This includes an immediate ceasefire. I am pleased that there is at last a timetable for a possible peace conference, details of which still have to be clarified even after yesterday's decision in the Security Council. Only with a substantive political process can we counter the destabilisation of the entire region."

Greece

"Greece is very concerned with the ongoing crisis and bloodshed in Syria; a crisis that jeopardizes stability in a fragile region. Greece and the EU have unequivocally condemned the use of chemical weapons, and we strongly support the U.S. -Russian initiative for the collection and destruction of Syria's chemical arsenal.

We welcome the diplomatic breakthrough expected to be achieved by the Security Council on the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons. And it is our fervent hope that this would be a crucial turning point in the Syrian crisis, providing vital momentum towards a Geneva II-type process that can take us to a viable and inclusive political resolution of the Syrian crisis."

Grenada

"...Grenadian citizens are very concerned about the prospects for peace in Syria and the wider Middle East. Grenada condemns, in the most vehement terms, atrocities and crimes against humanity. As such, we believe that those responsible for the recent deadly use of chemical weapons in Syria must be held accountable by the international community. Moreover, Grenada welcomes the Security Council Resolution to destroy Syria's chemical weapons and is encouraged by the commitment of the Syrian government to comply with the resolution. More importantly, my delegation hopes that this breakthrough could be a stepping stone to the resolution of the already brutal and bloody civil war in Syria, which has been fuelled by conventional weapons."

Guatemala

"As non-permanent member of the Security Council we have taken a position towards the recent crisis in Syria. In this regards, we have condemned the massacre against more than one thousand persons murdered with the use of chemical weapons and have demanded that a crime of this magnitude cannot remain with impunity. We have

also called for a categorical response of the international community to avoid that these deplorable acts be repeated. Consistent with this position, we have supported the leadership of President Obama, who has clearly expressed that peace in Syria and in the whole Middle East must be built in the framework of a political and diplomatic dialogue, but without abandoning our international **responsibility to protect** the citizens of those countries and of the world posed by the threat of nuclear and chemical arms."

Guinea

"Faced with the worsening of the situation in Syria, the international community must become more involved to put an end to the cycle of violence and the massive destruction of life and property. Guinea condemns the use of chemical weapons, which is contrary to international standards and human dignity. Intensive efforts must be undertaken for the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria, in accordance with the Russian-American initiative."

Guinea-Bissau

"In Egypt and in ravaged Syria, we hope that dialogue and diplomacy prevail over force, so that the sacrifice of so many human lives may be avoided."

Guyana

"At the moment, Syria is at the centre of our collective concern. The war in that sister nation has taken thousands of innocent lives. It is an illusion to believe that military intervention will bring peace to that country. What is badly needed is a political dialogue between the Syrian parties. The international community also has an important role to play. We welcome the agreement between Russia and the United States which will facilitate the destruction of chemical weapons held in Syria."

Holy See

"The example that today distresses and dismays the whole world is of course that of the grave conflict that has developed in Syria, already causing over 100,000 deaths, 4 million displaced persons, and over 2 million refugees in neighboring States, including Lebanon and Jordan, et risking to ignite international conflict at any moment...The most recent report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry, instituted by the Human Rights Council, has given as proved that massacres and other very serious human rights violations

were committed by the parties to the conflict. The same experts reminded us with force that there is no possible military solution...

We must recognize that in the Syrian crisis, the organs and agencies of the UN have tried to deploy all available means to protect civilian populations. What has perhaps been missing for too long is the courage of Member-States to prioritize the resolution of the conflict in international commitment. The UNSG recently mentioned the “collective failure” of the international community in its capacity to prevent and avoid atrocity committed in Syria...

In this regard, the Syrian tragedy simultaneously constitutes a challenge and an opportunity for the UN to give a new strength, in a concerted, creative, and positive manner, to all its organs, mechanisms, and procedures. In that respect, we must salute as a positive step the SC’s unanimous adoption of Res. 2118 (2013) on 27 September. My Delegation hopes that the agreement reached in this document will give a decisive impulse to the Geneva process, so that it finally be possible to achieve “stability and reconciliation” in the country.”

Hungary

“The use of chemical weapons in Syria was a crime against humanity. The international community has finally embarked on action to ensure that similar attacks would never ever be repeated. We urge that perpetrators of all war crimes should be brought to justice. Without justice there is no reconciliation, without chance for reconciliation, there is no lasting settlement. We welcome the U.S.-Russian Agreement on the Framework for Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons, as well as the consequent resolutions by the OPCW’s Executive Council and the UN Security Council...We urge the Syrian authorities to take full responsibility to ensure that their chemical weapons are stored securely until inspection and destruction and do not fall into the hands of any other State or non-state actor. Syria should live up to its commitments, including by providing full access to the international inspectors. We hope that these developments will bring us closer to a lasting and sustainable political solution which should remain the backbone of our efforts in the Syrian crisis. Well over 100 thousands lives have already been lost and 5 million people displaced in this conflict. Much regrettable, it was only after a terrible chemical attack in last August that the Security Council became ready to fulfill its duties and embarked on action. I urge all partners in the international community to seize this momentum and

reinvigorate the process leading to the long overdue Geneva II peace conference on Syria.”

Iceland

“It is the **primary responsibility of all Governments to protect their citizens**. A few weeks ago, the world witnessed the use of chemical weapons in Syria. It is hard to find words strong enough to express our condemnation. International law has been broken, war crimes committed and globally agreed values have been shattered. Those responsible must be held accountable and should answer to the International Criminal Court.

The devastation brought on the Syrian people must end. A country is in ruins. Innocent lives are lost every day, more than six million people are displaced and stability in the region is threatened. The Syrian Government has not lived up to its responsibility towards its own citizens. It has retaliated with aggressive violence instead of choosing a path of reform, reconciliation and improved rights for its people. This crisis calls for firm action to be taken by the international community. Syria must comply with its international obligations and all parties to the conflict must respect humanitarian and human rights law. We welcome the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2118 and call on the Council to ensure that Syria fully meets its commitments. The Geneva communique from last year must also be honoured and a Geneva II conference convened urgently.”

India

“The increasingly lethal conflict in Syria is not only a tragedy for the people of Syria, but also threatens stability and security in the region and beyond. It has been made worse by the use of chemical weapons. The use of chemical weapons, whosoever may have deployed them, must be condemned in the strongest terms. India supports strongly the elimination of chemical weapons material and equipment in Syria. There is no military solution to this conflict. We must intensify efforts to end the conflict and seek a political settlement. It is essential that the Geneva-2 conference be convened at the earliest.”

Indonesia

“The conflict in Syria has long demand such political and diplomatic solution. For amidst the undoubted complexity of the situation - three key points remain compelling: halt the violence; facilitate humanitarian

relief; and begin an inclusive political process reflecting the wishes of the Syrian people. The recent breakthrough on the issue of chemical weapons in Syria is clear evidence that diplomacy works. Further diplomatic momentum must be build - the Security Council must be one in forcefully making the case for peaceful settlement. To get the parties to the negotiating table, the Geneva II Conference must be convened at the earliest opportunity.”

Iran

“The human tragedy in Syria represents a painful example of catastrophic spread of violence and extremism in our region. From the very outset of the crisis and when some regional and international actors helped to militarize the situation through infusion of arms and intelligence into the country and active support of extremist groups, we emphasized that there was no military solution to the Syrian crisis...

The common objective of the international community should be a quick end to the killing of the innocent. While condemning any use of chemical weapons, we welcome Syria's acceptance of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and believe that the access by extremist terrorist groups to such weapons is the greatest danger to the region that must be considered in any disarmament plan. Simultaneously, I should underline that illegitimate and ineffective threat to use or the actual use of force will only lead to further exacerbation of violence and crisis in the region.”

Iraq

“Hence, we, in Iraq... are deeply concerned by the worsening events and tense situation on our borders with Syria, a country with which we have over 600 km long borders. This is why we consider the Syrian conflict a serious threat to our security, stability and the integrity of our land and people. For this reason we have put forward our initiative to resolve the Syrian crisis peacefully in order to avoid a devastating humanitarian disaster unfolding in our neighboring country and on our borders which could undermine all aspects of development, stability and prosperity that we and you aspire to achieve in our vitally important region.”

Ireland

“Every day, the peoples of the world - whom we are privileged to represent here at the General Assembly of the United Nations -look on in helpless horror at the

slaughter in Syria. They can see gassed children lined out, dead, on their television screens. They can access online the facts about the 100,000 Syrians who have been killed; the four million who have been displaced; and the two million or more who have been driven into refugee camps in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan... Crucially, the Security Council has called for the early convening of an international conference to address all aspects of the conflict. The inescapable reality is that the crisis can only be resolved politically, not militarily. I am greatly encouraged by the indications that the Geneva II Conference could be held within a matter of weeks... The Security Council has expressed its conviction that there must also be accountability for what has occurred in Syria. The International Criminal Court exists precisely for this purpose. We owe it to the Syrian people to ensure that those responsible for the war crimes committed against them are brought to justice.”

Israel

“[Iranian President] Rohani spoke of, quote, "the human tragedy in Syria." Yet, Iran directly participates in Assad's murder and massacre of tens of thousands of innocent men, women and children in Syria. And that regime is propping up a Syrian regime that just used chemical weapons against its own people.”

Italy

“Since the outbreak of the conflict in Syria, the Italian Government has underlined the importance of preserving the role of the United Nations as the ultimate guardian of peace. At the same time, we strongly condemn what has taken place in Syria. We cannot be indifferent before blatant violations of fundamental international norms. Italy is inviting all the members of the Security Council and other relevant international stakeholders to spare no effort in the search for political solutions. This is why the Italian Government welcomed the Geneva Framework for Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons. We strongly support the work undertaken in the Security Council toward getting Syria to participate in the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We cannot accept the continuous deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Syria and in Countries of the region. Once again we invite all the parties involved in the conflict to fully respect international humanitarian law. There must be effective protection for humanitarian assistance.”

Jamaica

“We remain deeply concerned about the suffering of the people in Syria and join the international community in condemning the use of chemical weapons.”

Japan

“First, I would like to state a new pledge about the situation in Syria. The use of chemical weapons has aroused profound shock and anger in the people in Japan, including myself. Chemical weapons must never be used again. I hereby declare that Japan will provide thorough support and the greatest possible cooperation towards the international community's efforts to dispose of Syria's chemical weapons. We feel righteous indignation about innocent civilians continuing to be victims. Japan regards the cessation of violence, initiation of political dialogue and improvement of appalling humanitarian conditions as issues of urgency. Right now, at this very moment, the number of refugees is soaring.”

Jordan

“The Syrian crisis is a global humanitarian and security disaster. Escalating violence threatens to hollow-out the rest of that country's economic and political future. Extremists have rushed to promote and exploit ethnic and religious divisions. Such a dynamic could crash regional renaissance and put global security at risk. We have a duty to reject these destructive forces...”

The Syrian people must also have a future...and for that, the international community must act. It is time to fast-track a political transition in Syria: to end the violence and bloodshed, neutralize the threat of chemical weapons, restore security and stability, preserve the unity of Syria and its territorial integrity, and engage all, all, its people in building their country's future...the world has the duty, the interest, and the power to help. And help must be soon...The flow of Syrian refugees in Jordan already equals one-tenth of our own population. It could reach one million, some 20% of our population, by next year.

More support is urgently needed to send a strong signal that the world community stands shoulder-to-shoulder with those who have borne so much. Those who are suffering in **Syria** also need the world to be resolute: the Syrian parties must abide by international humanitarian law and principles, and allow humanitarian access, into and within Syria, to reach those in need.”

Kazakhstan

“Kazakhstan strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons in Syria as confirmed by the findings of an independent investigation by the UN Mission and regards it as a crime against humanity. We support the adoption of a UN Security Council resolution on Syria that would stipulate strict compliance to a concerted decision on the elimination of chemical weapons in this country and the conduct of regular inspections of this process. We express our hope that the accession of Syria to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction as well as placement of such weapons under international control will preclude the possibility of their repeated use and contribute towards the end of a longstanding and bloody conflict in Syria...We call for earliest possible convening of an international conference on the settlement of the conflict in Syria with the aim to end violence and determine Syria's political future through dialogue and reconciliation.”

Kuwait

“More than two and a half years have passed since the eruption of the crisis in Syria. This crisis has exceeded the description of a humanitarian disaster, and is fast approaching the description of a catastrophe, with the increasing numbers of victims and multiplying numbers of missing, and internally and externally displaced persons, coupled with recurring scenes of blood, violence, destruction, oppression and violation of the most basic principles and values of humanity...”

This has faced the Security Council with a historic and decisive responsibility, to start taking serious and tangible steps to ensure finding solutions that can guarantee an end to the bloodshed of the brotherly Syrian people, achieve their demands, and restore security and stability in their country.”

Kyrgyzstan

“The continued two year armed conflict in Syria is of great concern. Kyrgyzstan expresses its serious concern over the numerous victims of the armed conflict, humanitarian catastrophe and further escalation of the crisis. In this regard, we call upon both sides to immediately cease fire and resolve the crisis peacefully through conducting a dialogue between all political forces of the country under UN's mediation. We support the initiative of the transfer of Syrian chemical weapons

with its subsequent destruction under the international supervision, and the joining of Syria to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction. We stand for the restoration of stability in the country, the preservation of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria, without military interference from the outside.”

Latvia

“We deplore the continuing humanitarian catastrophe in Syria. Easing of human suffering is the immediate goal, and we commend international efforts to this end...Those who committed war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria must face the International Criminal Court. The agreement reached by the United States and Russia on the framework to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons should be reflected in a UN Security Council resolution, with a clear indication that the Chapter Seven of the UN Charter would be invoked in case of non-compliance.”

Lebanon

“...Lebanon calls [upon the international community]...to promote the endeavors aimed at finding a political agreed upon solution to the Syrian crisis, which would preserve Syria's unity and the rights and fundamental freedoms of all its citizens and all the components of its population. Lebanon has already condemned the use of chemicals weapons, and it has called on the United Nations, including the Security Council, to assume solely the duty of holding the perpetrators accountable. The last American-Russian agreement about the weapons may be an introduction to the desired comprehensive peaceful solution. This solution would stop the bloodshed and prevent extremism from reaching out to neighboring countries, and seriously undermining international relations.”

Lesotho

“Of particular concern to my delegation is the situation in Syria which poses a serious and growing threat to international peace and security. Scores of civilians continue to be the chief victims. Women and children and the elderly bear the brunt of the conflict. The use of chemical weapons in Syria is not only abhorrent, but also a crime against humanity. We condemn it in the strongest terms as it threatens to undermine the norm against the use of chemical weapons universally embraced by the international community...Whether in Syria, or anywhere

else, perpetrators of crimes against humanity must be held legally accountable for their actions.”

Liberia

“...we unequivocally condemn the use of chemical weapons in Syria and anywhere in the world, and we call for concerted and renewed international efforts to stem the rising scourge of terrorism and other transnational crimes by action to control and eliminate weapons of mass destruction.”

Libya

“The tragic developments taking place in Syria are of imperative need for the international community to put an end to this human tragedy, and stop the bloodshed and the systematic destruction; therefore, we reiterate our call to the UN Security Council to act in accordance with the concept of the **Responsibility To Protect**, in order to find a solution to the problem, through consensus among its members, to save the Syrian people from daily massacres and help in achieving their legitimate demands.”

Liechtenstein

“For the second time in a row, this Assembly meets under the shadow of the crisis in Syria. It is the challenge of our time. No other situation in the recent past has so dramatically tested the United Nations' ability to respond. And none has so starkly illustrated the limitations and the weaknesses of our multilateral system. Thousands of people have been killed in a brutal, protracted war - many of them women and children, and many the victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Regional stability has been eroded. Millions of people depend on humanitarian assistance, which is often impossible to carry out. Humanitarian access to those most in need, including the sick and wounded, is systematically denied due to cynical political calculations. The humanitarian agencies have become a pawn in this perverted game.”

Luxembourg

“To live free from fear, conflict and violence is the most fundamental human right, and yet we witness the most atrocious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law every single day. The use of missiles, firebombs and cluster munitions, the use of chemical weapons, the systematic imposition of sieges, forced displacements, torture, sexual violence, violations and

abuses committed against children, more than two million refugees, more than 100,000 dead: this is the chilling balance sheet of two and a half years of brutal repression and conflict in Syria. The list of war crimes and crimes against humanity, committed on a daily basis, continues to grow. Against this horror, I will not tire of repeating that the situation in Syria must be referred to the International Criminal Court...Indeed, while we have been able to make progress these last days on the issue of chemical weapons, and while we are going to adopt in the next few hours a Security Council resolution establishing a strong and binding mechanism to ensure as soon as possible the control and destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons, we cannot and must not forget the humanitarian crisis which continues to unfold in Syria and in the neighboring countries, in particular in Lebanon and in Jordan, but also in Iraq and in Turkey.”

Malaysia

“Right now, the world's attention is rightly focused on Syria. United Nations investigators have concluded that the focus of the war has shifted along ethnic and religious lines, and become 'overtly sectarian'. A conflict which began with antigovernment protests threatens to descend into a war of ethnic cleansing... Secondly, we should give our all to resolve the political problems which raise tensions in the Muslim world - starting with Syria. We cannot underline strongly enough the need for a Syrian-led inclusive political process. Malaysia is against any unilateral action to resolve the conflict. All sides must come together to work out a political settlement. We welcome the recent US-Russia Framework Agreement, condemn without reservation the use of chemical weapons, and call on the international community to intensify their efforts to explore all possible diplomatic options for peace under the auspices of the UN.”

Maldives

“We are appalled at the human cost of the conflict in Syria. The use of chemical weapons at any time, by any one, for any means must not be tolerated. In this regard, the Maldives welcomes the United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 on the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria, which was adopted unanimously. The Council's decision, we hope, will take us a step closer to ending the atrocities taking place as we speak. Violence begets violence. Thus, we call on both sides of the conflict to choose the path of dialogue, not of violence.”

Mali

“In the Middle East, we are deeply concerned by the continued murderous violence in Syria, with its daily humanitarian disasters. As such, we condemn with firmness the use of chemical weapons in the theater of operations. Mali calls on the parties concerned to prioritize political solutions, under the aegis of the United Nations.”

Malta

“Malta calls upon the international community to look with compassion towards the innocents of Syria. It is a humanitarian catastrophe with no end in sight, a horrendous and indiscriminate tragedy. Each child's death and each mother's wail should shame us all. People are morally outraged across the world. Justifiably outraged - for there can never be justification for the appalling suffering that is taking place.”

Marshall Islands

“This January, the UN Secretary-General outlined two key political priorities for leaders addressing climate change risks, and the growing insecurity within Syria. As autumn sets in, it is evident that efforts are falling short. This year, Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum expressed strong concern at the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian government, and called for leadership by Security Council members to resolve this threat. While I am optimistic over recent diplomatic developments, the common international voice may come too little and too late for what could have been already prevented. This is only one example, of a growing list, of the tragic human costs of inaction.”

Mauritania

“It is with great concern and great worry that we follow the latest developments unraveling in the sister Syrian Arab Republic; we invite all concerned parties to avoid violence, abandon the logic of escalation and follow a logic of dialogue in order to find a peaceful solution that will spare the brethren Syrian people suffering and tragedy. We insist, at the same time, on the preservation of the integrity and intangibility of the Syrian territory, hoping that the mission of the UN and Arab League Special Envoy, Mr. al-Akhd har al-Ibrahimi might succeed. As a result, we have great hope for a speedy solution which will be able to end the massacres, the destruction of infrastructure, and the ruin of the Syrian economy.”

Mauritius

“The tragic events in Syria over the last two years are of serious concern to the global community. There is also concern about attempts to by-pass the Security Council and initiate action in breach of the UN Charter. Respect for Rule of Law at international level entails compliance with internationally agreed norms. Mauritius will support decisions taken by organs of the UN under the Charter. We welcome the Security Council resolution which addresses one of the issues in the Syrian crisis. However, the international community needs to go further and assist the political dialogue which will enable the Syrian people to live in peace.”

Mexico

“...we voice our support to diplomatic initiatives that pursue a political and peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis, in particular to the agreement reached between the United States and Russia to eliminate all chemical weapons in Syria. The prohibition against the use or threat of use chemical weapons is absolute. The events of August 21st outside of Damascus are unacceptable. Therefore, the dismantling and ultimate destruction of the Syrian arsenal of chemical weapons, under the authority of the OCPW and the United Nations Security Council, must be immediate and unconditional...Mexico fully supports the convening of an International Conference on Syria, "Geneva 2", as soon as possible and with the objective to achieve a framework for a lasting peace in that country.”

Micronesia

“In closing, let me express my sympathy and solidarity with people around the world who are facing immediate threats to their survival. I am horrified by the killing of innocents in Syria and elsewhere, especially women and children.”

Moldova

“...we follow with great concern the continuing violence in the Middle East, and abhor the loss of so many lives and futures, resulting perhaps in an irremediable maiming of the consciousness of a whole generation not only in the conflict zones but worldwide. The refugee crisis in Syria magnifies the woes of war: hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced as they try to save their lives and find peace. My own country has offered protection to a number of Syrian refugees and we recognize the significant burden that Syria's neighbors and other

receiving countries, many in Europe, face as they seek to alleviate the Syrian refugees' suffering and offer them a better chance for survival and affirmation of their basic human rights. It is time for all sides to take a step back, find a peaceful solution and build the future for their people rather than pursue fleeting, treacherous and so often deadly political goals.”

Monaco

“For Syria particularly the number of civilians displaced or made refugees in bordering countries is concerning. A new threshold was crossed with the use of chemical weapons, a grave violation of international that we cannot tolerate. Monaco adds its voice to those that continue to call for a political solution to the conflict especially in light of the recent agreement on the control and destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles in Syria. Those responsible for the acts cannot go unpunished.”

Mongolia

“Today, people around the world are distressed by the endless cycles of conflict...Thousands of human beings are losing their lives, millions are displaced and many more are suffering. The grave situation in Syria is the latest example. We express the hope that the US-Russian initiative will bear fruit and lead to a peaceful resolution of the Syrian conflict.”

Montenegro

“Of all the crises, due to the overall consequences for the country and a broader region, the situation in Syria, regrettably, still captures most of the attention of the global body politic and tops the UN agenda. We are deeply concerned by a continuing deterioration of the situation in Syria and most strongly condemn any form of violence, killing of civilians and violation of human rights. We especially condemn the use of chemical weapons confirmed in the report of the UN Inspection Team, which the Secretary General Ban Ki-moon characterized as a war crime. We hereby urge that those responsible for crimes in Syria and violations of international law be brought to account. The agreement reached between the US and the Russian Federation gives us hope of a diplomatic solution to this crisis and ending of conflicts in Syria through a resolute action of the Security Council. We believe that a political solution and a democratic transition is the only way to stop the tragedy and conflict that resulted in a humanitarian crisis of incalculable proportions affecting the whole region.

The Syrian case, among others, highlights the importance of preventive measures and mediation in preserving international peace and security. Strengthening of the UN preventive capacities for early response and suppression of threats before they become a source of conflict is key to dealing with similar situations in future.”

Morocco

“The second thing that concerns us, and the international community, is Syria. We commend the international community, and we commend the Council for adopting the resolution (2118) having to do with the chemical weapons program in Syria, announcing the date of 15th of November for the holding of Geneva II in order to stop violence in Syria and to achieve a political solution through dialogue in order to maintain the territorial integrity of Syria and the stability of neighbouring countries.”

Namibia

“Namibia condemns the use of chemical weapons against the civilian population in Syria, as confirmed by UN inspectors. Namibia welcomes the agreement reached by the Russian Federation and the United States to place Syrian chemical weapons under the control of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). We also support the efforts of the Joint Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General and the League of Arab States to help the Syrian parties find a peaceful solution to the conflict.”

Nauru

“The world’s attention is now focused on the immense suffering in Syria, and on behalf of the people of Nauru, I would like to offer my prayers to the millions of people whose lives have been affected by the conflict in Syria. We stand in horror at the scale of human atrocity and I am left to ask: do we always have to wait for well over 100,000 people to be killed before we can find solutions to global peace and security?”

Nepal

“The situation in Syria is a serious concern for us all due mainly to the violent conflict and subsequent large-scale humanitarian tragedy. We believe the international community should facilitate in easing of tensions and confrontation through diplomacy and dialogue towards peaceful and durable political solution. We condemn the recent use of chemical weapons in Syria and call for total

destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile in all parts of the world.”

Netherlands

“The world was shocked to discover that an attack with chemical weapons had taken place in Syria on 21 August. The attack violated one of the most important peremptory norms of international law. The 1925 Geneva Protocol, to which Syria is a party, bans the use of chemical weapons. The situation in Syria poses a clear threat to international peace and security. The Netherlands calls on the UN Security Council to take concerted action to address this threat. And what have just heard from Australia what is going to happen today. Syria does not comply with the international norm that requires it to protect its citizens. But the international community also has a responsibility...”

As the Secretary-General said, “Those responsible for the atrocities in Syria should be held accountable, in accordance with international law.” The use of chemical weapons is a war crime that falls under the Rome Statute. If the Syrian government itself sees no possibility of tracking down and prosecuting the guilty parties, it can ask the ICC to do so. If Syria makes no request, the Security Council must take action. Finally, as the Secretary-General also said, we can hardly be satisfied with the destruction of chemical weapons while the wider war continues to destroy Syria...

Today we can no longer pretend to know nothing of quarrels in far-away countries or of the people who live there. If we fail, it is not because of the deficiency of the legal instruments that we have developed. It is because of the international community’s deficient sense of responsibility. It is our duty to take responsibility in addressing what is happening in Syria.”

New Zealand

“The gap between aspiration and delivery is all too apparent, as the situation in Syria has again so brutally reminded us. But any failures of this institution are less failures of the Organisation than they are failures of us, its Member States, and those who have the responsibility of leading those states. There would be no dreadful humanitarian situation in Syria if Syria’s leaders had upheld the commitments made to the international community and to the Syrian people when Syria joined this organisation and ratified the Human Rights Covenants...”

New Zealand is pleased that the Security Council has at last met on the situation in Syria. The Secretary-General has advised the Council and the General Assembly, "The United Nations Mission has now confirmed, unequivocally and objectively, that chemical weapons have been used in Syria."...As the Secretary-General has said, these are war crimes. Those responsible must be brought to account...It is imperative now that the Council acts. It must adopt a resolution that responds to the use of chemical weapons. It must find a means to hold those responsible to account, and establishes an effective mechanism for the destruction of those weapons in line with the proposal developed by the United States and Russia. The resolution must also provide for the protection of the civilian population."

Nicaragua

"Nicaragua continues to support a negotiated solution to the bloody conflict in Syria. The proposal of the Russian Federation to put an end to the war has broad international support, including from countries that are part of the Security Council with veto rights."

Niger

"What is happening in Syria is a veritable tragedy. Even in this topsy-turvy world it is a centuries old civilization that is crumbling before our eyes. We condemn the use of chemical weapons as was done on the 21st of August. We call on the UN to promote a political solution at the upcoming Geneva conference."

Nigeria

"The reported use of chemical weapons in the Syrian crisis is unacceptable. Nigeria condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the use of chemical weapons that are prohibited by International Conventions. We applaud the current diplomatic efforts to avert further escalation of the crisis. We urge all parties involved to end the violence and seek a negotiated solution, including the instrumentality of the United Nations."

Norway

"As we speak the horrors in Syria are continuing. Thousands upon thousands of children, women and men are being killed and maimed. Millions are fleeing their homes. The use of Chemical Weapons is utterly unacceptable, and is a grave violation of international law. Those responsible must be brought to justice and the case referred to the ICC. The Syrian crisis can only

be solved through a political solution. The UN Security Council must now live up to the responsibility that we, the members of the UN, have entrusted in them. Humanitarian access must be ensured by all parties and to all areas."

Oman

"My country welcomes the consensus that has been achieved in the Security Council on the Syrian chemical weapons by adopting unanimously Resolution 2118. It is necessary to convene Geneva 2 Conference for the negotiations between the Syrian Government and the opposition forces and we believe that the goal of these negotiations are to lead to the cease-fire and the formation of a Transitional Authority with necessary powers to enable it to overcome the enormous problems caused by war that existed for approximately three years. We also believe that the International Society should look forward at this time to provide the support and humanitarian assistance to the displaced Syrians and to all affected by this abhorrent war."

Pakistan

"Even as we meet here, Syria is in turmoil, with Syrians killing Syrians. We appeal to the Syrian Government and opposition groups to move to the negotiating table in Geneva to prepare a road map for national reconciliation and the necessary political transitions. More war will lead to more killings that need to be stopped. As party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, Pakistan remains opposed to the use of chemical weapons. We condemn its use in the strongest terms. We welcome the agreement reached between the United States and Russia, and supported by other permanent members of the Security Council, to secure and destroy chemical weapons in Syria. This crucial step has facilitated consensus within the Council to adopt a resolution, which will not only address the issue of chemical weapons but start the stalled political process in Syria that would lead to national reconciliation and solutions that are acceptable to the people of Syria. Pakistan will support that resolution. Acceptance of the Geneva One document and a decision on the dates for the convening of the Geneva Two Conference will be a big step in ending the crisis in Syria. I call on all forces to invest their political will and capital in diplomacy to bring peace to Syria."

Palau

“We stand with the United States in its on-going efforts to guide the international response to the horrific actions in Syria.”

Panama

“In this regard, we will not let this moment pass without expressing the deep concern that Panama shares together with many of the members of this Assembly for the grave situation in Syria. We condemn, in the strongest terms, the use of chemical weapons against the civilian population in Syria, and we share the view that such acts constitute a crime "against humanity" which should be investigated and punished in accordance with the norms of international criminal law currently in force. We call upon all members of the Security Council of the United Nations to assume their responsibility to enforce international humanitarian law and to protect the international human rights of the Syrian people.”

Papua New Guinea

“We join the international community in condemning the use of chemical weapons in Syria and urge full compliance with the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We therefore commend the UN Security Council for adopting a Resolution to dismantle and eradicate Syria's chemical weapons program.”

Paraguay

“The events in Syria are a concern to all of us and our Organization must play a preeminent role towards the definitive solution to this conflict. In this regard, my country calls for supporting the implementation of the Framework Agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation.”

Peru

“Regarding the tragedy of the Syrian people, we express our solidarity with that nation. Peru condemns the use of chemical weapons, a fact that is unacceptable from every point of view. It is an affront to humanity and a clear violation to international law. The Syrian people deserve an immediate solution to the bloody conflict. We urge, therefore, all parties involved to find a peaceful and negotiated solution with respect for the mechanisms of dispute settlement. We also call upon the U.N. Security Council to uphold its responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security.”

Philippines

“Furthermore, in accordance with the application of the rule of law and the peaceful settlement of disputes, the Philippines, as a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention and a staunch advocate of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, also welcome Syria's accession to the Treaty. The Philippines hopes that the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons will effectively assist the Syrian Government in disposing of its chemical weapons stockpiles.”

Poland

“This conflict has led to high number of victims, has created a major humanitarian crisis. It is a threat to regional security and stability. In such situations, members of the Organization are authorized to demand efficient action by the Security Council...Regrettably, in the Syrian dispute the members of the Security Council have spoken out for individual sides in the war and supported them in various ways rather than make them stop fighting and commit to peace talks. It revealed the lack of capacity and efficiency of the United Nations Organization decision-making mechanisms...The Syrian tragedy, including the use of chemical weapons, is symbolic of a broader phenomenon, the ignoring of international values, norms and obligations adopted by our organization and the entire international community.”

Portugal

“That is unfortunately the case in Syria, where the horrors of war and the unspeakable suffering of the population are now prevailing features and barbarism, which the international community had vowed never to cross again. It was the absence of the United Nations in the phase of prevention and control - with a blocked and powerless Security Council - that allowed the Syrian crisis to reach these dramatic and unacceptable political and humanitarian proportions. We would have certainly had less casualties and refugees and surely we would not be managing an international crisis of great proportions as a consequence of the use of chemical weapons. Now, as an agreement was reached to remove, once and for all, the threat posed by the chemical arsenal of the Syrian regime, the international community has again turned to the Security Council of the United Nations. I would like to salute the enormous political and diplomatic efforts by the USA and Russia, with the involvement of the Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi.”

Qatar

“Destructive actions and horrible massacres are continuing at the hands of the Syrian regime against its peoples in addition to the policies of scorched land upon the Syrian people crossing all the red lines set by ethics and mandated by law, particularly after the regime's use of chemical weapons against the Syrian people. It is unfortunate that the perpetrators of these brutal crimes and massacres, which have shocked every human conscience, are enjoying impunity from deterrence or accountability...

We all know that the responsibility for failure to impose the political settlement we all prefer for Syria is due basically to the inability of the Security Council to take the required decision to stop the bloodshed and the continued intransigence of the Syrian regime and its refusal of all regional and international initiatives.”

Republic of the Congo

“Regarding the situation in Syria, my delegation strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons and congratulates the Syrian government for their adherence to the Convention for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and its decision to place under international control its stock chemical weapons for destruction. However, we believe that only a political solution could put an end to the martyring of the Syrian people and the fratricidal war that has already cost the lives of over 100,000. This is why the Congo welcomes the US-Russia agreement, which...as we hope, could reunite in the near future Syrian actors and all concerned parties around a table in a conference for peace in Syria...We consider here, once again, the privileging of a peaceful solution.”

Republic of Korea

“In this connection, the use of chemical weapons in Syria, as confirmed by the report of UN investigators, is the worst humanitarian disaster in the 21st century. The government of the Republic of Korea condemns the use of chemical weapons in the strongest possible terms, as it constitutes a crime against humanity that cannot be tolerated under any circumstances. In this regard, we welcome the recent agreement between the U.S. and Russia on the "Framework for Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons", and an expected decision by the OPCW and a resolution by the Security Council today. We urge the Syrian government to faithfully implement its commitments to the international community...

Worldwide, there is an alarming increase in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to wars and intra-state conflicts. Concerning the mass-scale refugee problem caused by the Syrian civil war, my government is actively involved in international efforts to assist the refugees. Korea is also planning to co-host a working group meeting on Syrian reconstruction in Seoul next month.”

Romania

“Romania has continuously stated that it is imperative for the international community to curb the escalation of violence in Syria. We favor a political solution under a Syrian-led transition process, based on all Syrian parties' cooperation with the international community, seeking the preservation of the Syria's territorial integrity. By the adoption of the yesterday Security Council resolution no. 2118, Syria has been given all chances to reenter on the right path. We urge all parties to respect and to act in accordance with the provisions of this resolution which creates the conditions for a negotiated peace within Geneva II process.”

Russian Federation

“Many problems of today's world have been reflected in the tragic situation in Syria...From the very beginning of the turmoil in this region Russia has consistently called for the elaboration of a common approach by the international community, which would combine the support to the Arab peoples on the way of transformations and the understanding of the fact that objectively these processes would be lengthy and sometimes painful and that it would be quite important not to harm them by rude outside interference. We have emphasized the need to act in a balanced way and take into account that complex developments are taking place, which are associated, among other things, with a strenuous search for compromises among various ethnic and religious groups that make up the mosaic of the Arab societies. We have called consistently for the choice of the evolutionary way of development and peaceful settlement of crises through national dialogue and reconciliation...

The use of chemical weapons is inadmissible. This does not mean, however, that one can usurp the right to accuse and pass verdicts. All the incidents associated with the use of chemical weapons by whoever that might be in Syria must be investigated in a professional and unbiased manner and then examined by the UN Security Council exclusively on the basis of facts, rather than allegations and assumptions. Recently, a common argument has

been increasingly used to prove that the threat or use of force directly prohibited by the UN Charter is nearly the most effective method to address international problems, including settlement of national domestic conflicts. There are attempts to extrapolate such an approach also to the situation in Syria. This happens despite the fact that all the experience of such interventions with the use of force in the recent years has proven that they are ineffective, meaningless and destructive...

We expect that the decisions by the OPCW Executive Council and the UN Security Council will contribute to establishing a required framework for elimination of chemical arsenals in Syria...

People continue to die and peaceful civilians suffer every day in Syria. The religious minorities including Christian communities become victims of this conflict, which increasingly acquires a sectarian character. Virtually the only possibility today to put an end to this turmoil is to move from a deadlock the process of political settlement of the Syrian crisis. Russia continues to work energetically for the earliest convening of a peace conference to implement the Geneva Communiqué of July 30, 2012. We hope that following the government of Syria the opposition will also constructively respond to the Russia - U.S. initiative.”

St. Kitts and Nevis

“St. Kitts and Nevis joins in condemning the atrocities that have recently been perpetrated in Syria that have resulted in wanton loss of human lives. Such use of chemical and conventional weapons and resorting to acts of violence and terrorism and their spiraling inhumane effects will ultimately have far-reaching deleterious impact on global safety and security, which must continue to be a concern for all the world's leaders and their people.”

St. Lucia

“Like other member-states, we appeal for a peaceful resolution of disputes, and in that regard welcome the developments in the Middle East, and specifically in relation to Syria, where the claims for and attempts at peaceful and negotiated resolution of disputes have, at this time been made to take preference over the threats of the weapons of war.”

St. Vincent & the Grenadines

“At the same time, St. Vincent and the Grenadines is deeply impressed by the efforts of the President of the United States to embrace diplomacy rather than military intervention in pursuance of a political settlement in Syria...Still, peace cannot be reasonably sought when a pre-condition of regime change is held aloft. All sides in this conflict must make compromises in the interest of the Syrian people as a whole.”

Samoa

“The areas of tension and trouble spots around the globe are escalating and getting deadlier. The availability of weapons of mass destruction and now their use in Syria is unnerving. The untold sufferings brought about by the Syrian crisis has touched many hearts, and the latest episode as we watched in utter disbelief the use of chemical weapons to kill indiscriminately defenseless victims and even children is incomprehensible. We welcome therefore the joint proposal by the United States and Russia and the willingness of Syria to have its chemical weapons destroyed under the competent UN authority and we expect total compliance for this initiative to succeed.”

Sao Tome and Principe

“With respect to the bloody conflict that is assailing Syria and causing a humanitarian tragedy of great proportions, the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe vehemently condemns the use of chemical weapons in violation of all international accords. We also take this opportunity to welcome recent developments toward dismantling the Syrian arsenal of chemical weapons and urge both parties in conflict and the International Community to pursue a compromise that will lead to the cessation of hostilities and pave the way for open dialogue and negotiations within a multilateral framework, toward a political solution aimed at establishing a lasting peace.”

Senegal

“With regard to the Middle East, Senegal expresses its deep concern over the untold suffering of the Syrian population. We urge the Syrian Government to exercise restraint and to comply with the Agreement concluded for the control and destruction of its arsenal of chemical weapons.”

Singapore

“In this regard, Singapore welcomes the unanimous adoption of UNSC Resolution 2118 on the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria. We strongly condemn the use of chemical weapons under any circumstances, which constitutes a violation of international law. We remain deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in Syria, and hope that Geneva II will be convened quickly to find a political solution to end the conflict and violence.”

Slovakia

“The current Syrian crisis is testing our resoluteness and ability to respond effectively. The conflict is a threat for the entire region. It is frightening not only due to the number of casualties and refugees. Equally alarming is the inability of the UN Security Council to take any effective actions. If we thoughtfully consider all the possible consequences of a military intervention in Syria it becomes clear that there is only one good solution to this conflict - the diplomatic one...Slovakia principally condemns use of chemical weapons as a crime against humanity and urgently asks to bring the perpetrators before the International Criminal Court.”

Slovenia

“We are faced with another human tragedy unfolding before our eyes in Syria. After more than two years of brutal violence against civilians, including women and children, we, the leaders of the world, have still not found a political solution in the framework of the United Nations. The unconscionable use of chemical weapons in Syria is not only considered a war crime. It is an assault against our common diplomacy failed again, and will the only way to stop the violence now be military intervention?...”

The report of the UN inspectors was clear, credible and impartial. The US-Russian agreement on the Framework for the Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons must be implemented without delay. Syria's accession to the UN Chemical Weapons Convention is a positive step. But this should not be seen as an opportunity for the Syrian Government to stall for time. Syria should comply immediately and fully or face consequences. It is important that diplomacy prevailed and brought the issue back to the UN and to the Security Council. The Security Council should live up to its responsibility and use all appropriate measures to comprehensively address the situation in Syria. Finding a political solution remains the

only viable and lasting solution to the crisis and to ensure stability in the region. We support the timely convening of the Geneva II conference...

We call upon the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court. International Criminal Court is an essential pillar of a system of international justice and a powerful tool to ensure accountability and fight against impunity for the most serious crimes. It deserves our full support.”

Solomon Islands

“On the Middle East, we continue to watch with horror the daily carnage and the humanitarian catastrophe in Syria. We note with concern the preliminary findings of the UN Investigation team confirming the use of chemical weapons. Solomon Islands welcomes the Russian and United States initiatives to destroy chemical weapons in Syria and further support all efforts in seeking a diplomatic and political solution to the civil war.”

Somalia

“War is something we Somalis have experienced too much of it in recent years and we feel sadness particularly when we look at Syria and see our brothers embarking on a civil war that will only bring the ruin of the country...After two years, the conflict in Syria is already entrenched. Hatred has taken hold of the hearts of too many men and women while a new generation of children has to endure a childhood full of suffering, with no education...We must not allow use of Chemical Weapons against human being in war or otherwise let alone children, women and vulnerable. The International Community must assume responsibility and send powerful message to those who are responsible of the continued conflict in Syria. We must continue to encourage all sides in Syria, and their international allies, that the only way out of this tragedy is negotiation.”

South Africa

“We have expressed our dismay at the use of chemical weapons in Syria. There is no cause that could justify the use of weapons of mass destruction, by anyone or anybody under any circumstances. It is our strongly held view that any political transition in Syria must come about as a result of the will of the Syrian people, and not as a result of a force of arms. We welcome the recent positive developments such as the decision by Syria to accede to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the ongoing bilateral consultations between the Russian

Federation and the United States. We support all the diplomatic efforts aimed at finding a solution to this matter.”

Spain

“The Assembly is aware that the situation in Syria has become an intolerable, heartbreaking human drama, as well as a growing threat to regional and international peace and security. The brutal attack with sarin gas against civilians in Damascus, confirmed by the report of the UN Mission, has been widely condemned among the international community, which firmly believes this act must not be repeated, nor go unpunished. The proposal by Russia and the United States that will allow international control and the subsequent destruction of all stocks of chemical weapons in Syria has been applauded by all. It is now necessary for the Security Council to adopt a Resolution to establish a legally binding prohibition on the use of chemical weapons in Syria and to ensure their mandatory destruction.”

State of Palestine

“Further, while we condemned the crime of the use of chemical weapons in Syria, we have affirmed our rejection of a military solution and the need to find a peaceful political solution to fulfill the aspirations of the Syrian people.”

Sudan

“Our position has always been very clear. We prefer dialogue a dialogue amongst Syrians so that a peaceful solution could be found. We have always rejected violence and interference from outside. We condemn the use of chemical weapons. We support the Russian approach to solving this matter.”

Suriname

“Suriname maintains the position that the multilateral process within the United Nations should prevail in finding a peaceful solution for the crisis in Syria.”

Swaziland

“We are also extremely disturbed by the deadly conflicts in countries such as Syria, where innocent people are dying on both sides, including women and children, with some displaced and are now living as refugees in other countries. We encourage all the people of Syria to immediately cease fire and use dialogue...The UN

mission findings on the use of chemical weapons in Syria should be used as a basis to chart a way forward in pursuit of the dismantling of these unconventional weapons of mass destruction, which are a serious threat to mankind...It is important that whatever action will take place in Syria, it must fall within the mandate of the United Nations.”

Sweden

“The civil war raging in Syria for more than two years must come to an end. Those responsible for systematic violations of human rights - including those responsible for the use of chemical weapons - must be held accountable. The conflict must be handled within the UN-system. There is an urgent need for a political solution of the conflict and a transition to a free and democratic Syria.”

Switzerland

“...the situation in Syria is now so dramatic that humanitarian organizations are unable to cope. The serious and systematic violations and abuses of international humanitarian law and human rights must not be tolerated under any circumstances. These crimes must not go unpunished, regardless of which side is responsible. It is for that reason that in January of this year my country, together with fifty-seven like-minded states, called on the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.

The use of chemical weapons is a particularly despicable crime. It is imperative to shed light on all facts. With this in mind, Switzerland welcomes the recent developments. It is crucial to end the violence in Syria in order to protect its civilian population from further suffering. I therefore appeal to the permanent members of the Security Council to overcome their differences in order to finally find some common ground for a political solution to the conflict in Syria. I reiterate the need for the international community to spare no effort to pave the way for another conference in Geneva. This conference should take place shortly and aim for a negotiated and lasting solution that would take into account the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian in all its aspects.”

Syria

“Instead of settling regional and international conflicts by peaceful means, some known countries continued pursuing aggressive policies against certain nations. Political hypocrisy increased to intervene in the domestic

affairs of states under the pretext of Humanitarian Intervention or the **Responsibility to Protect**; and when those aggressive policies did not prove beneficial for some countries, like my Own country, Syria, these well-known states revealed their true face, and threatened with blatant military aggression outside the mandate Security Council, and certainly away from any international consensus. This comes as those same countries imposed immoral, illegal and unilateral coercive measures...

What is happening in my country has become clear to everyone. Yet, some countries do not want to recognize that Al-Qaeda, the most dangerous terrorist organization in the world, and its many offshoots, like Jabhat Al-Nusrah, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Brigade of Islam and many others, are fighting in Syria...

There is no civil war in Syria, but it is a war against terror that recognizes no values, nor justice, nor equality, and disregards any rights or laws. Confronting this terror in my country requires the international community to act in accordance with relevant resolutions on counter-terrorism...to compel those well-known countries that finance, arm, train and provide a safe haven and passage for terrorists coming from different countries of the world...

My country has accepted the initiative graciously launched by H.E. President Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation. Syria, by acceding to the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, proves its commitment against the use of such weapons, while at the same time calls on the international community to shoulder its responsibility against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East...Syria is known for fulfilling its obligations and commitments; therefore, I assure you the Syria's commitment to the full implementation of the provisions of the Convention, and to cooperate with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) as a state party to the Convention...

The cessation of aggressive policies against Syria is the first step on the road towards the solution in my country. Any political solution in light of the continued support of terrorism, whether through supplying arms, funding or training, is mere illusion and misleading. Syria has repeatedly announced that she embraces a political solution of its crisis; it is now for those who claim to support a political solution in Syria to stop all hostile practices and policies against Syria, and to head to Geneva without preconditions. On the basis of the peoples' right to self-determination the Syrian people has

the exclusive authority to choose its leadership, its representatives, and decide its future and the political system that accommodates all walks of the Syrian society, including those who were deceived and pushed to take a wrong path. We, in Syria, do not bet on any party but the Syrian people who is determined, with all its components, to reject all forms of foreign interference in its domestic affairs, and to defeat the advocates of sectarianism, extremism and terrorism.”

Thailand

“Today, it is conflict within states that takes the heaviest human toll, as we have witnessed in the still unfolding events in Syria... On the twenty-first of August, we learned that chemical weapons were used against innocent civilians in Syria. Despite widespread condemnation and outrage, the United Nations was initially unable to act, the Security Council deadlocked. We therefore welcome the resolution on Syria adopted yesterday by the Security Council. We urge Syria to ensure the full and effective implementation of the resolution, and to allow monitoring and enforcement by the international community. It is our hope that the Security Council, and especially the permanent members, will continue to work together to find a durable political solution for the sake of the Syrian people.”

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

“Speaking of one of the major issues - the crisis in Syria and the internal conflict with more than 100 000 victims and 2 million refugees - what is more troubling while pursuing diplomatic efforts is that the Syrian people were confronted with the use of chemical weapons which is strictly forbidden by international law. This must not be tolerated. We are among the countries that asked for urgent investigation, under the auspices of the Secretary General's Mechanism for the Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons. Despite differing views, all Member States of the Council and of the United Nations are united in that for the final resolution of the Syrian crisis, a chance should be given to the political approach. Therefore, it is essential to concentrate maximum efforts on revitalizing the search for a political settlement and convene the Geneva II conference as soon as possible. The Syrian people deserve better days through decisive action of the international community that will put an end to the violence and threats.”

Timor-Leste

“Turning our attention to international matters whose urgency especially appeals to our conscience, my country witnesses with horror the growing violence in Syria. We welcome the agreement that was reached to put Syria's arsenal of chemical weapons under UN control prior to its destruction. Timor-Leste rejects the use of chemical weapons in all circumstances. We are in favour of dialogue in the search for negotiated solutions, with the involvement of the United Nations.”

Togo

“Mr. President, elsewhere in the world, the Syrian conflict continues, with its atrocities and its daily destructions, the peak of which was the use of CW on 21 August 2013. The international community has long observed, powerless, the macabre result of this conflict. However, we wish that SC Res. 2118 open new promising perspectives for peace and for an inclusive political transition in Syria. This implies that the international community should work more on the humanitarian field by bringing assistance to Syrians in need, both inside and outside Syria. In that respect, we support the holding of the Geneva II conference, which should provide, and that is our most ardent desire, an opportunity for an exit to this crisis through the formation of a consensual and inclusive transitional government.”

Tonga

“Tonga joins other delegations of the International community in urging a swift and peaceful resolution to the situation in Syria.”

Trinidad and Tobago

“It must not be forgotten that good governance/ respect for human rights and the rule of law at the national and the international levels are essential for the achievement of sustainable development. In this context, we wish to underscore our grave concern with the escalating humanitarian crisis in Syria, and reiterate our call for the situation to be resolved through dialogue, and not through the use of any measures, which would violate international law.”

Tunisia

“The Arab Spring today is reaching ultimate suffering in Syria. The violence in Syria has astonished us from the beginning. It is escalating day after day. It so brutal

today, so brutal that history has never witnessed such brutality. In Tunisia we have taken a strong position against the dictatorship in Syria. We supported the opposition and expelled the regime's ambassador in our country. We have long warned against factionalism, sectarianism and intervention by others, whether states or so-called jihadi groups...We have gone so far as to say that life is more important than justice, and if it is necessary not to prosecute the Syrian dictators and if they leave the scene we ought to accept the situation however bitter, however our fears have turned to reality. We continue to live this nightmare pressing against the valiant Syrian people. We have never seen such an apogee of brutality. Indeed there is a need for a political solution to end the nightmare. However, we also want your support for prosecution in the ICC. This would be a further addition to international law to protect people against dictatorships and particularly the Syrian dictatorship, the worst example of how immoral a regime can become in its action...

Have we ever seen such a brutal regime, in such a brutal civil war that has gone beyond any of the most-ugly scenes seen in the region in history? Indeed, they ought to be brought to the ICC. Justice delayed cannot return the dead to life. There have to be preventive bodies that take up such situations from their very beginning.”

Turkey

“No issue facing us is more pressing than the situation in Syria. Let me be clear: Turkey welcomes and firmly supports the US-Russian agreement to eliminate Syria's arsenal of chemical weapons. That agreement has to be translated into a tangible UN Security Council resolution. Once Syria comes clean about this arsenal, once and for all, it will be a relief for the Syrian people and the region...Nevertheless, we cannot forget that chemical weapons were used against Syrian civilians only a month ago. The perpetrators of this crime against humanity must be held accountable and be brought to justice.

Yet the recent approach to the situation in Syria also raises difficult questions: Were it not for the use of chemical weapons, would the international community have continued to turn a blind eye to the deaths of more than a hundred thousand people? For how long can we afford to evade our moral responsibility to the people being killed even as we speak? This conflict neither began with the use of chemical weapons, nor will it end with an agreement to eliminate them...The agreement to destroy Syria's chemical arsenal must not allow the regime to avoid responsibility for its other crimes...

It is a disgrace that the United Nations Security Council has failed to uphold its primary responsibility in this case...Staying on this course cannot be an option...I cannot emphasize this enough: Agreement on chemical weapons must not be allowed to substitute for a comprehensive political strategy to address the situation in Syria. This conflict has evolved into a real threat to regional peace and security. Any recurrence of the proxy wars of the Cold War era will plunge Syria into further chaos...

There has to be a sound strategy with well-defined and well-calculated objectives for a peaceful solution. It has to aim to end Syria's civil war, ensuring the immediate safety and security of the Syrian people, and the country's stable transition. The enforcement of such a strategy requires a fully determined, committed, and robust international engagement: exactly what has been missing since the beginning of the conflict."

Ukraine

"One of the most painful security problems of today is the civil conflict in Syria, which, unfortunately, increasingly crosses borders and grows into the source of threats of regional scale...We welcome the Plan produced by Russia and the United States to move under control of the international community the stockpiles of the Syrian chemical weapons for their subsequent destruction. At the same time Ukraine is convinced that successful implementation of the mentioned plan gives hope to bring the conflict under control and leaves space for the political and diplomatic settlement."

United Arab Emirates

"The UAE is deeply disappointed at the inability of the international community until now to put an immediate end to the worsening tragedy suffered by the Syrian people, caused by the military actions and indiscriminate and systematic bombings by Syrian forces, which has so far killed more than 100,000 people and injured and displaced millions of people, being to date the most serious violation of international law and international humanitarian law... We are deeply concerned about the growing serious implications of this conflict on Syria and the entire region, and we strongly condemn and reject all crimes against humanity committed by the Syrian regime, especially the chemical attack against Ghouta, Damascus, which killed thousands of civilians and children."

United Kingdom

"In Syria, our priority is to help bring about a political settlement. The foundations for a settlement were agreed in Geneva last year - establishing, on the basis of mutual consent, a transitional governing body with full executive powers. We are in close touch with our partners about convening a second Geneva conference as soon as possible. No meaningful political solution can occur without the moderate Syrian opposition. We recognise the Syrian National Coalition as the legitimate representatives of the Syrian people. And we recognize their commitments to the Geneva process, and to building a secular, democratic and pluralist Syria that ensures equal rights for all. On the issue of chemical weapons in Syria, the Assad regime committed a war crime under international humanitarian law on 21 August, launching a large scale chemical weapon attack on its own people -the first attack on this scale for 25 years - 88 years after such weapons were universally banned...we hope to adopt later today a Security Council resolution establishing binding legal obligations on the Syrian regime, for the removal and destruction of Syria's vast chemical weapons arsenal..."

Most importantly, I call on all parties inside Syria to allow humanitarian agencies to operate without hindrance or the threat of violence. Unless this urgent humanitarian access is given, no amount of money can alleviate the scale of the Syrian people's suffering."

United Republic of Tanzania

"The recent use of chemical weapons in Syria as confirmed by the United Nations inspections team to kill innocent people is rather distressing. We condemn such flagrant and senseless killing of innocent people including children in Syria. We commend the Secretary General and the UN Security Council for way they handle the matter. I believe the doors for a peaceful solution to the Syrian problem are not closed and that a military solution should be the last resort."

United States of America

"...our response has not matched the scale of the challenge. Aid cannot keep pace with the suffering of the wounded and displaced. A peace process is still-born. America and others have worked to bolster the moderate opposition, but extremist groups have still taken root to exploit the crisis. Assad's traditional allies have propped him up, citing principles of sovereignty to shield his regime. And on August 21st, the regime used chemical

weapons in an attack that killed more than 1,000 people, including hundreds of children...

With respect to Syria, we believe that as a starting point, the international community must enforce the ban on chemical weapons. When I stated my willingness to order a limited strike against the Assad regime in response to the brazen use of chemical weapons, I did not do so lightly. I did so because I believe it is in the security interest of the United States and the world to meaningfully enforce a prohibition whose origins are older than the U.N. itself.

The evidence is overwhelming that the Assad regime used such weapons on August 21st. U.N. inspectors gave a clear accounting that advanced rockets fired large quantities of sarin gas at civilians...It is an insult to human reason – and to the legitimacy of this institution – to suggest that anyone other than the regime carried out this attack.

I know that in the immediate aftermath of the attack, there were those who questioned the legitimacy of even a limited strike in the absence of a clear mandate from the Security Council. But without a credible military threat, the Security Council had demonstrated no inclination to act at all. However...my preference has always been a diplomatic resolution to this issue, and in the past several weeks, the United States, Russia and our allies have reached an agreement to place Syria's chemical weapons under international control, and then to destroy them. The Syrian government took a first step by giving an accounting of its stockpiles. Now, there must be a strong Security Council Resolution to verify that the Assad regime is keeping its commitments, and there must be consequences if they fail to do so.

Agreement on chemical weapons should energize a larger diplomatic effort to reach a political settlement within Syria. I do not believe that military action – by those within Syria, or by external powers – can achieve a lasting peace. Nor do I believe that America or any nation should determine who will lead Syria – that is for the Syrian people to decide. Nevertheless, a leader who slaughtered his citizens and gassed children to death cannot regain the legitimacy to lead a badly fractured country...

I welcome the influence of all nations that can help bring about a peaceful resolution of Syria's civil war. And as we move the Geneva process forward, I urge all nations here to step up to meet humanitarian needs in Syria and surrounding countries."

Vanuatu

"On Syria, we have seen internal conflicts transformed into international disputes that require solutions from this august body. This session has heard intense debate on the protracted conflict affecting the Syrian people and undermining the regional and international peace. We join many other Peace loving nations to call for an end to the conflict and for the UN to do more to strongly enforce the international ban on the use of Chemical Weapons. On the other hand, we commend the United States of America and the Russian Federation for taking a strong leading role in the issue of Syria and in addressing the Chemical weapons issue in Syria."

Venezuela

"Our Security Council has been taken hostage by the hawks of war; when they can, they justify their attacks from here, and when not they simply bang on the table and do whatever they want which is what they are doing when they declare future bombings in the Syrian Arab Republic."

Viet Nam

"Whilst peace, cooperation and development are the dominant trend, the threat of war is ever present. Violence in the Middle East and North Africa is a grave concern; the latest instance in **Syria** where the use of chemical weapons needs to be strongly condemned. We need to give peace every possible chance and to find solutions to eliminate chemical weapons in accordance with international law and UN Resolutions."

Yemen

"We would also like to condemn the use of chemical weapons, especially in Syria. We condemn the use of chemical weapons by all parties. We call for all the parties in the conflict in Syria to opt for dialogue, and political settlement, reconciliation, and reconstruction. We call upon the international and regional parties to intensify their efforts in order to achieve a peaceful settlement to the Syrian crisis. The Geneva II conference should be convened as soon as possible to put end to the killings and to the bloodshed in Syria. The recent events demonstrated the challenges being faced by the United Nations, especially with regard to the disagreements between the security members inside the Security Council [sic], which was a pretext for certain circles to opt for unilateral action outside the international legality represented by the United Nations. This requires

a thorough reform of this organization in order to enable it to discharge its main task, namely the maintenance of international peace and security.”

Zimbabwe

“...we applaud the consultations and negotiations on the eventual destruction of the chemical weapons in Syria. My country expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Russia and China for their principled stand on Syria. We hope and trust that the Syrian people will soon sit in dialogue to discuss peace and desirable political reforms. Those western countries in pursuit of hegemony as they pretend to be advocates of democracy.”

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Angola

“In this context, the Framework for Peace, Security and Cooperation in the DRC and the Great Lakes Region, signed in February 2013 in Addis Ababa, is both the most appropriate mechanism for the peaceful resolution of the conflict in eastern DRC, as well as the best guarantee for stability in the region and for safeguarding the peace, security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the DRC. We reiterate our call to the signatories of the Framework to respect their commitments and condemn the threats that negative forces continue to pose to civilian populations, particularly in the city of Goma and its surroundings.”

Belgium

“...I would like to salute particularly the recent efforts of the international community in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The population of Northeast Congo has been, for years, submitted to massacres, to multiple violations, to forced recruitment of soldiers – including children - to looting, to forced displacements...The General-Secretary and Security Council’ efforts to reinforce MONUSCO mandate are having their first results. The intervention brigade has a crucial role in protecting the population. Here also pragmatic solutions should be found, thereby without accepting a general amnesty or admitting impunity, in what concerns war crimes or crimes against humanity.”

Benin

“We should also salute here the efforts made in the stabilization of the Grand Lake countries, particularly DRC and CAR...”

Burkina Faso

“Beyond the resolution of the sociopolitical and military crises in West Africa, Burkina Faso strongly adheres to the initiatives of the international community to restore durable stability in the Central African Republic, in the DRC, in the Great Lakes Region, in Somalia, in Sudan.”

Burundi

“Concerning the security situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi joined other members of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and other partners such as the African Union and the United Nations to restore peace in the country. In this regard, Burundi reaffirms its commitment under the agreement of 15/12/2006 and protocols of the ICGLR as well as statements and decisions of the Heads of State and Government of the members signed in Addis Ababa and Kampala. We reaffirm a commitment at the regional level under the Framework Agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation in Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, signed in Addis Ababa on 24 February 2013.”

Central African Republic

“Exogenous causes [of the conflict in CAR] are rooted in the collateral effects of the crisis in Darfur, Libya, the Sudan conflict that led to the independence of South Sudan, the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the residual aggregates of the Chadian rebellion and terrorist actions of the LRA of Joseph Kony in the extreme south of the country...”

Chad

“My country Chad strongly deplores the unsettled situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. We urge the government and the rebels to find a negotiated solution to their dispute to allow this great African country to focus on its development.”

France

“In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, women and children are victims of violence each day in the Kivu region. And here again, it is essential that we continue to strengthen MONUSCO and apply the agreement of Addis Ababa and to refuse any external interference. We must draw on the lessons and experience of previous years everywhere that chaos reigns.”

Gabon

“In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon remains concerned about the fighting in the east, including against women and children paying a heavy price. We welcome additional efforts by the UN for the implementation of Security Council resolution 2098, and the commitments made by the parties to the Framework Agreement. All of the countries of the Great Lakes region should support UN efforts. We also encourage the efforts of the Government to hold the next elections.”

Guinea

“This is the place to honor the mediator, President Denis Sassou Goussou, for his efforts in establishing a lasting peace in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes Region.”

Holy See

“The African continent presents many conflict situations, current or potential, with dozens of armed groups sowing death and suffering throughout the population. I wish to emphasize here the situation in eastern DRC and in CAR.”

Luxembourg

“We must make a difference. We must break the cycle of violence. This imperative also applies to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes Region. The Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, signed on 24 February 2013 in Addis Ababa represents, such is our fervent hope, a turning point for peace consolidation and regional stabilization. The second meeting of the regional oversight mechanism at the level of the Heads of State and Government, held on Monday in New York, resulted in the adoption of regional benchmarks and indicators of progress which will facilitate the implementation of the Framework

agreement. This is an important first step. It must be followed by concrete actions, on the political, security and economic levels.

The parties must implement all their commitments in good faith and with due diligence, including the commitment to neither tolerate nor provide assistance or support of any kind to armed groups, notably the M23, which continue to operate in the East of the DRC. We must tackle the root causes of recurring violence and lay the groundwork for the revitalization of the regional economy, in order to initiate a virtuous circle which will allow the populations of the region to foster sustainable development.”

Mali

“In Africa, Mali is deeply concerned over the situation in Central Africa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt and Libya, and expresses its strong condemnation of violence as a means of political expression.”

Mauritius

“The situation in Madagascar and the Democratic Republic of the Congo will, hopefully, be resolved soon through the support of the International Community to SADC initiatives in this regard.”

Montenegro

“Noting that in some of the crisis areas, such as Mali, important progress has been made and a shift away from the state of violence and instability, situations in the DR Congo, the Central- African Republic, Sudan/South Sudan etc. still require continuous attention and efforts of the Security Council and other relevant actors.”

Morocco

“Regarding the Great Lakes region, the Kingdom of Morocco commended the signing of the Framework Agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation, which opens opportunities for the settlement of the crisis that has lasted too long in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is necessary that all signatories to the Framework Agreement, respect their commitments and that the international community supports the ongoing peace process...[Morocco] underlines its commitment to respect the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.”

Mozambique

“Stability in the DRC continues to be a challenge for our region. We would like, once again, to congratulate the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his efforts in articulating with SADC and the African Union and the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region, which resulted in the signing of the "Framework for Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the Region", as well as in the appointment of President Mary Robinson, as the Special Envoy of the Secretary General...We reiterate our appeal to all signatories to honour the tenets of this agreement. We appeal to the Congolese actors to conclude the Kampala negotiations, so as to ensure the return of a lasting stability in the DRC.”

Namibia

“We welcome the signing of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Region. Namibia urges all signatories to the Cooperation Framework to work in good faith towards its full implementation. We commend the efforts of the Intervention Brigade to restore peace in eastern DRC and call upon the international community to extend its full support for the success of this important mission.”

New Zealand

“There is no point in joining the Council simply to make up the numbers. Sometimes, you have to speak up and shine a light on what is going on - or not going on - even when that may be inconvenient to others. This applies whether the issue is Rwanda or Somalia, Yemen or Yugoslavia in 1993/94, or the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan or Syria in 2013/14.”

Sao Tome and Principe

“There has been no significant progress in resolving the continued conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, despite the laudable efforts undertaken by the international community, namely the United Nations and the African Union, toward finding a solution that will lead to peace and stability in the region. Therefore we cannot fail to appeal to neighboring countries for constructive forms of cooperation and trust in their relationships.”

Senegal

“We hope that similar attention will be paid to the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo, in their legitimate aspiration to peace, stability and the preservation of their territorial integrity.”

Togo

“Mr. President, other situations in Africa deserve that we grant them as much attention, so strong is their participation in the continent’s insecurity and hindrance to the efforts we deploy to achieve the MDGs. The CAR, the DRC, Libya, and many other countries constitute, at the present time, sources of preoccupation so fragile peace and security remain in these brethren countries.”

United Republic of Tanzania

“The United Republic of Tanzania regrets to see the suffering of the people of DRC as a consequence of the conflict in Eastern DRC has continued for far too long. We hope this time around the initiative of the Secretary General which resulted in the establishment of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Great Lakes Region and DRC signed in February, 2013 will deliver lasting peace, security and development for the DRC and the Great Lakes Region...Part of the enduring problem facing the DRC is the proliferation of armed groups with varied interests. Bolder action is required to uproot these negative elements. These groups should be neutralized and disarmed. It is in this context that we welcomed MONUSCO's expanded mandate as per resolution 2098 (2013) of the Security Council that among other things established the Force Intervention Brigade...Of course the panacea to the DRC problem is political rather than military.”

Central African Republic (CAR)

Benin

“We should also salute here the efforts made in the stabilization of the Great Lake countries, particularly DRC and CAR...”

Burkina Faso

“Beyond the resolution of the sociopolitical and military crises in West Africa, Burkina Faso strongly adheres to the initiatives of the international community to restore

durable stability in the Central African Republic, in the DRC, in the Great Lakes Region, in Somalia, in Sudan.”

Burundi

“With regard to the precarious situation in Bangui in the Central African Republic, Burundi as a member of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), is ready to join other nations in order to deploy a military contingent to participate in peacemaking.”

Cameroon

“With particular regard to the political, security and humanitarian crisis in CAR, which has reached unprecedented proportions, Cameroon and other countries of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) have taken their responsibilities by sending troops to stabilize the situation. Likewise, they actively contributed to the development of a roadmap to enable a return to normal constitutional order within 18 to 24 months. Cameroon urges the international community to support the efforts of the sub-region of Central Africa to include rapid operationalization of the International Mission Support RCA (MISCA) and the mobilization of humanitarian assistance to the height of the problems facing this country.”

Central African Republic

“These recurring crises in recent decades have created an almost permanent instability, which led to a degeneration of the state. Endogenous causes of this situation arising from the weakness of the state, a lack of political dialogue, non-compliance with commitments made in the management of public affairs...tribalism, nepotism and political exclusion. These causes combine today with new phenomena never known in Central African Republic: inter-ethnic tensions and inter-religious passions...Exogenous causes are rooted in the collateral effects of the crisis in Darfur, Libya, along with the Sudan conflict that led to the independence of South Sudan, the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the residual aggregates of the old Chadian rebellion and terrorist actions of the LRA of Joseph Kony in the extreme south of the country. These disorders promote the circulation of a large flow of weapons of all calibers whose combined effects weigh heavily on the security situation and humanitarian Central African Republic, causing serious human rights massacres of civilians, abductions, summary executions, mass rape, widespread looting, arson of private homes and public buildings and not to

mention desecration places of worship and the degradation of natural resources and wildlife.

The Central African Republic is thus faced with multifaceted challenges that require immediate action: the restoration of security of people and goods throughout the territory; protection and humanitarian assistance to benefit vulnerable populations, including IDPs and refugees; redeployment of State administration throughout the territory; the restoration of social cohesion and national harmony; economic recovery and the management of public finances and the organization of general elections...

It is important to note that at present, the humanitarian situation is catastrophic and is presently as follows: 4.6 million Central Africans are affected by the crisis, that is to say all of the country's population; 1.6 million of them are internally displaced and badly need help; 60,000 children could die of malnutrition; 62,000 people have sought refuge in neighboring countries, including 40,500 mainly in the Democratic Republic of Congo...I want to see the international community redouble efforts and continue to support the Central African Republic in the search for a lasting peace...

Yes, the time has now come for the international community to save the Central African Republic. It did for Mali. There is no reason for it not to do it for my country...It is now more than ever we must act without hesitation to assist a people in danger. It is now more than ever the need to mobilize all the resources already used abroad to avert the irreparable.”

Chad

“...the situation in the Central African Republic remains alarming. Insecurity, political, economic and financial difficulties with which the Transitional Government continues to face are major challenges facing us all. The countries of the region, through the Economic Community of Central Africa, ECCAS, have made every effort in mobilizing the military, financial and human resources to help peace and stability in this country...we expect the Security Council of the United Nations to adopt a strong resolution and to provide financial and logistical support to the MISCA [International Support Mission to Central Africa].”

France

“The warning here is about Central Africa. It's a small country that has been ravaged by coup d'état and

conflicts. Today chaos has taken route and once again, civilians are the victims. We must bring an end to this maltreatment that is also linked to religions. This is why I would like the Security Council to give a mandate and the logistic and financial means to an African force whose first mission will be to reestablish the stability of the Central African Republic.”

Gabon

“In the Central African Republic, Gabon supports the transition to which we have opened with ECCAS states. It is desirable that the various protagonists strictly adhere to the framework of the transition. However, I remain concerned about the humanitarian and security situation, including the resumption of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA).”

Guinea

“In the Central African Republic, urgent measures should be taken to avoid the collapse of the state and steer away the specter of chronic instability that threatens the country.”

Holy See

“The African continent presents many conflict situations, current or potential, with dozens of armed groups sowing death and suffering throughout the population. I wish to emphasize here the situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the Central African Republic.”

Luxembourg

“The commitment of the international community is also badly needed in a situation which alas is receiving less attention. I am referring to the humanitarian tragedy which is unfolding in the Central African Republic. This tragedy affects the entire population of this country: 4.6 million people. Public order and the rule of law have collapsed. Human rights violations have become commonplace: arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, sexual violence against women and children, rapes, extra-judiciary executions. According to our information, Seleka has recruited and used at least 3,500 child soldiers; this figure cannot leave anyone indifferent. The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate. The prevailing insecurity further reduces access to the affected populations. We must act with urgency. The restoration of security and public order must be our first priority. We warmly welcome the decision of the African

Union Peace and Security Council authorizing the deployment of an International Support Mission to the Central African Republic. The United Nations should give their full logistical and financial support to this African-led Mission. Our credibility is at stake.”

Mali

“In Africa, Mali is deeply concerned over the situation in Central Africa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt and Libya, and expresses its strong condemnation of violence as a means of political expression.”

Montenegro

“Noting that in some of the crisis areas, such as Mali, important progress has been made and a shift away from the state of violence and instability, situations in the DR Congo, the Central- African Republic, Sudan/South Sudan etc. still require continuous attention and efforts of the Security Council and other relevant actors.”

Niger

“The populations of Central African Republic are going through tragic moments with unheard of violence. Niger is calling for an international intervention as occurred in Mali to put an end to the murder of the CAR people.”

Republic of the Congo

“That is why, in Central Africa, ECCAS member States promptly reacted to the risk of ‘Somalisation’ in the Central African Republic, despite limitations of their means. Dialogue just held here in New York on 25 September on the humanitarian crisis in CAR...clearly indicates that the international community has taken the measure of the challenge in deciding to engage resolutely to assist the CAR’s political, security, economic, financial and plans, and assuring a successful transition...Well beyond even the humanitarian emergency, we must give to the CAR all necessary resources for the restoration of the authority of the state, even running the administration’s resources, reviving the economy, and preparing elections.

An international force to support the Central African Republic, MISCA, is taking place under African leadership, and we encourage the Security Council to adopt a resolution supporting the initiative to create the conditions for the restoration of peace and security...”

Sao Tome and Principe

“The Central African Republic lives today one of the worst moments in their history. Indeed, we observe barbaric acts being committed, such as summary executions, widespread pillage, public services falling apart, etc. This humanitarian situation has already been determined to be catastrophic by United Nations specialized agencies, and requires vigorous and urgent action. Therefore, the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome & Principe, out of our concern for the suffering of the tormented people of our sister nation, appeals to the entire International Community for a more vigorous intervention to mitigate their suffering, preserve their national sovereignty and help their national political actors to promote national unity and political stability.”

Senegal

“We hope that similar attention will be paid to the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo, in their legitimate aspiration to peace, stability and the preservation of their territorial integrity.”

Togo

“Mr. President, other situations in Africa deserve that we grant them as much attention, so strong is their participation in the continent’s insecurity and hindrance to the efforts we deploy to achieve the MDGs. The CAR, the DRC, Libya, and many other countries constitute, at the present time, sources of preoccupation so fragile peace and security remain in these brethren countries.”

Mali

Angola

“Angola welcomes the normalization of the legal/constitutional framework of some African countries, who after tumultuous periods of instability, have successfully held free and fair elections and are now making strides towards building democratic states and the rule of law, as well as economic and social development. In this connection, we welcome President Ibrahim Keita, from Mali, who was democratically elected, and we express our solidarity with the process of reconciliation and reconstruction of the country.”

Algeria

“Algeria particularly welcomes the release of parts of Northern Mali from the clutches of terrorists and criminal groups as well as the restoration of constitutional order in the country with the success of the presidential election.”

Belgium

“When we act together, we get results. Mali is proof of this. Alongside a friendly people, the international community, the African Union and the European Union have reduced the terrorism. We restored the peace of a people and the unity of the country.”

Benin

“The encouraging management of the crisis in Mali is to the credit of the partnership between the UN and regional organizations. It has proved what the international community can achieve if it activates in a timely manner the leverage of our collective security system.”

Burkina Faso

“I welcome the gradual improvement of the situation in Mali with the deployment of the integrated United Nations Mission for the Stabilization of Mali (MINUSMA), and the conduct of the presidential election reinforces that constitutional order is restored. Also I take this opportunity to reiterate my gratitude to all players contributing to the resolution of the crisis in Mali.”

Burundi

“Regarding Mali, the recent election of Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita to the presidency of this country is undoubtedly a milestone to reconnect with democratic principles that this country had known in the past and is the proper path to normalization of the country. These elections are successful in our opinion an important step on the road to recovery for Mali.”

Central African Republic

“If Africa is distinguished by acts of violence of all kinds, the continent still gives us reason to hope because a few days ago, we saw in Mali the election of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in a country facing a crisis that undermined the foundations of national unity. That he accepts our sincere congratulations and here is the

expression of our unwavering encouragement for the restoration of peace and the establishment of democracy in his country.”

Chad

“We take this solemn occasion to congratulate the successful completion of the transition in Mali with the holding of free, fair and democratic elections, unanimously acclaimed by the entire international community.”

Comoros

“I noticed, and I must admit here that today's France is ready to assume its historical role, according to a state respectful of international law, regardless of the subject of international law, and what France has done in Mali is an example, most eloquent.”

Cote D'Ivoire

“That is why we welcomed with great satisfaction the restoration of the territorial integrity of Mali and the good holding of the presidential election in that fellow country. These successes should not however hide the enormous challenges our region faces. I urge the international community to learn from the conflict in Mali and support ECOWAS and the African Union in the establishment of coherent and proactive security policy; terrorism in the Sahel region moves inside a space of entire sections beyond the control of states.”

Estonia

“That presidential elections in Mali were carried out in a peaceful and transparent manner, has paved the way for optimism. The newly elected president has many important tasks ahead - starting with reconciliation between the southern and northern parts of Mali.”

France

“...in Mali, with a clear mandate of the Security Council, African and French forces with the support of Europeans intervened. At the appeal of the authorities in Bamako, they have succeeded to bring an end to a broad terrorist offensive and today we see the results. Mali has regained its territorial integrity, it has ensured the security of its population and it has even been able to organize at the date foreseen, a presidential election which has been recognized as incontestable.”

Gabon

“In Mali...We welcome the positive political developments, marked by the strength of the presidential election, and choice of the Malian People on the person of His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keita.”

The Gambia

“I seize this opportunity therefore to congratulate the brotherly people of Mali for giving peace a chance by electing a Government through democratic means.”

Ghana

“After its own bout with terror, Mali made a solid return to democracy by conducting an election that all observers, even the skeptics and the cynics, hailed as being free, fair and peaceful.”

Guinea

“...I would singularly evoke the case of Mali... The recent past experienced by this brotherly country reminds us, alas, of the vulnerability of our countries against terrorism and extremism, as well as the fragility of our institutions. The international community, in unanimous momentum, mobilized to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity, restore the authority of the state and the constitutional legality in the country. The soothing atmosphere that characterizes the presidential election in Mali certainly portends a new era of prosperity. Mali has an urgent need for assistance to consolidate peace, reconcile and rebuild the country.”

Guinea-Bissau

“We wish great successes to the people of Mali, which has just demonstrated their great level of maturity, going to the polls with civic pride in their recent general elections, which marked the end of the period of Political Transition and, at the same time, sent a strong signal of national reconciliation and the beginning of their effort to rebuild a country destroyed by terrorist acts and unacceptable irredentism.”

Italy

“Italy reiterates its strong commitment to the stabilization of Mali and the Sahel region. At the national level we are currently funding training for border police in Mali and Niger.”

Liberia

“The recent inauguration of a new democratically elected President in Mali is a clear indication that such [regional] cooperation is the surest path to world peace. We congratulate the newly elected President...for receiving the overwhelming endorsement of the Malian people, and we commend all stakeholders for respecting the outcome of the democratic process.”

Mali

“I come here before you to express the gratitude of my people to whole of the international community for its invaluable support shown to my country, Mali, which today has recovered its sovereignty over the whole of its territory...Mali is back. Yes, with the support of friendly countries, Mali is standing and turning the darkest chapter in its history. It was marked by nine months of serious human rights violations, looting, and destruction of sites, including unique cultural and historical monuments. Mali has recovered its sovereignty over its territory, and its rich cultural diversity, and is now committed to the path of national reconciliation...Through an exemplary electoral process, Mali and Malians and strongly reiterated their commitment to democracy and constitutional order.”

Mauritania

“Following its duty, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania who has aligned itself from the beginning alongside its brother Mali in its crisis, has early on opened its boundaries to Malian brothers who sought refuge in its territory, and continues to host the majority of them today. Our country has hosted these past few months a series of negotiations between the provisional government of Mali and certain Azawad movements, which has enabled the signature of the Ouagadougou Accords, thus clearing the path, most lately, for the organization of presidential elections. We seize this opportunity to express our sincerest congratulations to the brethren Malian people, hoping that its mutations augurs a new era of well-being, security, and progress from the brother Mali.”

Mauritius

“The return to normalcy in Mali and the recent holding of elections there, show the relevance of international partnerships.”

Montenegro

“Noting that in some of the crisis areas, such as Mali, important progress has been made and a shift away from the state of violence and instability, situations in the DR Congo, the Central- African Republic, Sudan/South Sudan etc. still require continuous attention and efforts of the Security Council and other relevant actors.”

Morocco

“...our Kingdom attaches great importance to the situation in Mali and the dangers confronted by this country recently. We commend...Mali...and the international community for holding elections recently in Mali and for the progress they have made in promoting stability in that country. The International community should continue to support this fraternal country at all levels”.

Namibia

“We welcome the holding of democratic elections in Mali and congratulate President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita on his election.”

Niger

“For us in the Sahel, our pre-occupations has been Mali...Today as we asses our common effort we must recognize that we the health of Mali to the far-sighted decision of President Hollande with the Sahel operation which as we recall brought to an end to the large terrorist influx that began in January of 2013 which had sizable means to do so but they were up to the challenge...Mali in addition to being free elected its president on August 11.”

Nigeria

“The recent Presidential elections in Mali herald a new beginning that should translate into peace and prosperity for its people and provide a stronger basis for stability within the sub-region.”

Norway

“From Somalia to Mali, the African Union and its sub-regional partners continue to prove their importance. It is, beyond doubt, becoming one of the UNs most important regional partners.”

Romania

"We consider that the efforts of the international community and the results obtained so far in Mali represent an encouraging Evolution for this country and for the Sahel region. One year ago, the crisis in Mali was a major concern for the people of Mali and neighboring countries. Following the positive evolutions in the first months of 2013, the Security Council decided, by its resolution 2100 of 25 April 2013, the participation of the UN in the restoration of the situation in Mali and support for democratic transition in the country. Remarkable progress has been made, however: the free and fair presidential elections were held, with a participation rate of the population without precedent. "

Sao Tome and Principe

"Mali, another country that has been tormented by a fratricidal war, finally seems to have reached an encouraging point as they recently held presidential elections with results that have been peacefully and universally accepted. We congratulate the new President and hope that he may find the best path to maintain peace and an inclusive dialogue among all Malians."

Spain

"At the outset, Spain supported the AFISMA missions and, subsequently, the deployment of MINUSMA. Spanish troops in the European Union mission in Mali are training the country's armed forces, which are responsible for ensuring national sovereignty, territorial integrity and full respect for human rights."

Togo

"...I wish to cite the Malian case where the danger represented by terrorist and extremist jihadist groups, alongside the humanitarian crisis, has led the UN to act promptly with a military intervention paired with a peacekeeping operation...The good conduct of the 28 July and 3 August presidential election was an undeniable success for the Malian people and its leaders, but also for the international community...my country invites the Community of Nations to keep accompanying Mali on the path to reconstruction of infrastructure that was destroyed in the north of the country, and of economic development, strongly blighted by this crisis."

United States of America

"In Mali, we supported both the French intervention that successfully pushed back al Qaeda, and the African forces who are keeping the peace."

Sudan and South Sudan

Angola

"We also salute the countries with positive developments, and which despite having situations of instability, are engaged in the implementation of agreements aimed at resolving crises and normalizing their constitutional frameworks, including...Sudan and South Sudan, and we call on the support of the entire international community to the efforts that are being developed by these countries to achieve peace and stability."

Botswana

"We note with deep concern, that shortly after celebrating the second anniversary of its Independence, Africa's newest sovereign state, South Sudan, witnessed developments in relations with Sudan which seriously threatened its security and territorial integrity. We, at the same-time, remain deeply concerned about the increasingly deteriorating political and humanitarian situation in Darfur. We therefore appeal to the international community to assist in all possible ways in restoring peace and stability in that region."

Burkina Faso

"Beyond the resolution of the sociopolitical and military crises in West Africa, Burkina Faso strongly adheres to the initiatives of the international community to restore durable stability in the Central African Republic, in the DRC, in the Great Lakes Region, in Somalia, in Sudan."

Chad

"...my country will actively continue to work for peace in Sudan, as a member of the Monitoring Committee of the Darfur Peace Agreement. However, it seems to me appropriate to draw the attention of this august Assembly on the humanitarian situation in Darfur as a result of new outbreaks of tension that are born and cause a continual influx of refugees and other displaced eastward Chad. At present, it is counted more than

400,000 refugees and 200,000 displaced, against 290,000 and 180,000 the previous year. All efforts since the outbreak of the crisis to promote the return of refugees and displaced persons to their regions of origin were unsuccessful.”

Guinea

“We urge Sudan and South Sudan pursue dialogue for the settlement of outstanding issues, including the status of Abyei province and to encourage the renewal of bilateral cooperation.”

Mongolia

“Our peacekeepers are serving in areas with high security threats and risks. To support and encourage our peacekeepers, last February I took a trip to South Sudan and visited the UN Mission there. During my visit, I met the President of South Sudan and offered my support to him and to his nation, the youngest member of the international community.”

Montenegro

“Noting that in some of the crisis areas, such as Mali, important progress has been made and a shift away from the state of violence and instability, situations in the DR Congo, the Central- African Republic, Sudan/South Sudan etc. still require continuous attention and efforts of the Security Council and other relevant actors.”

New Zealand

“There is no point in joining the Council simply to make up the numbers. Sometimes, you have to speak up and shine a light on what is going on - or not going on - even when that may be inconvenient to others. This applies whether the issue is Rwanda or Somalia, Yemen or Yugoslavia in 1993/94, or the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan or Syria in 2013/14.”

South Sudan

“...the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) has been relatively successful although the protocols of the two states of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, the case of the contested area of Abyei and the demarcation of the borders between South Sudan and Sudan continue to impede the full implementation of the peace accord...”

Our relations with Sudan, of recent, involve unexpected tension with intermittent suspension of oil-flow through Sudan. Inside the South itself there is reemergence of old quarrels since time immemorial by some communities over cattle grazing and water points. This became complicated during the last war- as guns of different calibers trickled to unauthorized civilians' hands. We are working hard as a government to entrench peace to all comers of South Sudan...

We deeply regret the loss of lives of the Indian Peacekeepers, the Russian Helicopter Crew and the Kenyan and South Sudanese relief Workers in Pibor County...We would want to assure the international community that such tragic incidences are not repeated.

Jonglei State, the most populous with inaccessible terrain has been of particular concern to us as a government as well as the international community...As we regret the security impediments in Jonglei, we assure the international community of our government's determination to transform our army, the SPLA, into a professional National Army that respects human rights and the rule of law and committed to the protection of civilians...

Our relationship with Sudan has been a mixture of cooperation and squabbles. Fundamentally, both sides do acknowledge that there is no alternative to lasting peace other than harmony and cooperation given our shared history...we call on the parties at war in Sudan to find a durable political solution to the conflict, a situation for which the CPA had provided a workable remedy. We urge the international community to play a positive stepped-up role in narrowing the gap between both parties. The civil war currently taking place in the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile regions of Sudan as well as in Darfur has created an influx of suffering refugees to South Sudan. We appeal for humanitarian access and supply for those refugees.

On Abyei, we will continue to cooperate with the Republic of Sudan to implement the agreement on the final status of Abyei through a referendum fixed for October 2013...The international community must ensure that this proposal is implemented expeditiously.”

Sudan

“His excellency President Bashir is known throughout Africa, by all those who holds peace dear, for what he has done for putting an end to a bloodthirsty war inherited from the days of colonialism. The birth of the Republic of South Sudan is evident proof of his commitment to the

implementation of the CPA. Despite the significant sacrifice in giving up part of the territory that is rich in natural and human resources...the meeting of the Council of the Peace and Security of the AU has highlighted the part that he [President al-Bashir] has played in promoting peace in Sudan and South Sudan and throughout the region...On the matter of human rights may I share with you what was said by the Special Rapporteur on Sudan. He recognized that progress had been made in various areas. These matters have been dealt with very seriously and the points will be dealt with in our policy. We are committed to human rights...Once South Sudan was established we immediately began to establish fruitful relations with it...The period following independent of South Sudan was a period of tension because of some matters that remained pending to the two countries entered into serious negotiations...At the last negotiation session between the two Presidents in Khartoum in early September and in the presence of Mr. Mbeki the two Presidents came to an agreement on how to deal with all of the pending matters and also appealed to the international community to cancel the debt of Sudan and reduce the debt of South Sudan.

Turning now to unilateral sanctions it is our hope that we will have strong and health relations with South Sudan. We will spare no effort to achieve this and we trust the international community will be supportive of our efforts...I am happy to be able to tell you that the efforts of the government of Sudan and the international community vis-à-vis Darfur have made real progress possible in terms of security and stability. There has been a sharp drop in violence there because those who signed the agreement have lived up to their promises...The Darfur conflict became a political issue only in recent years because of outside external policies that were being followed.”

Libya

France

“But the threat continues in the Sahel, and also in Libya where weapons are circulating and terrorist groups have found refuge. There too we must help the Libyan authorities to guarantee the security of their territory and their population.”

Libya

The people of Libya will always bear in mind high appreciation and respect for the United Nations for its

positive role and contribution in the making of their modern history, beginning with its resolution on November 21, 1949, on the independence of Libya, to the urgent response to the distress call of the Libyan people by adopting resolutions (1970) and (1973) in 2011 to protect civilians and support the revolution of 17 of February, which saved Libya from the repressive dictatorial regime. This positive role is still ongoing through the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) which is performing a distinguished effort to provide technical advice, raise awareness, and capacity-building to various sectors in order to advance the democratization process, and to achieve justice and national reconciliation, and the restructuring of State institutions.”

Mali

“In Africa, Mali is deeply concerned over the situation in Central Africa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt and Libya, and expresses its strong condemnation of violence as a means of political expression.”

Mauritania

“We hope impatiently for the peoples of Egypt, Yemen, Libya, and Tunisia to quickly complete their transition stages and to inaugurate democratic institutions, guaranteeing their citizens all the rights and a dignified life in a climate of well-being and prosperity.”

Togo

“Mr. President, other situations in Africa deserve that we grant them as much attention, so strong is their participation in the continent’s insecurity and hindrance to the efforts we deploy to achieve the MDGs. The CAR, the DRC, Libya, and many other countries constitute, at the present time, sources of preoccupation so fragile peace and security remain in these brethren countries.”

United Kingdom

“In other parts of the region, while the picture is mixed, important progress has been made. In Libya the General National Congress is working towards elections in early 2014...”

United States

“...in Libya, when the Security Council provided a mandate to protect civilians, America joined a coalition that took action. Because of what we did there, countless

lives were saved, and a tyrant could not kill his way back to power. I know that some now criticize the action in Libya as an object lesson. They point to the problems that the country now confronts -- a democratically elected government struggling to provide security; armed groups, in some places extremists, ruling parts of a fractured land. And so these critics argue that any intervention to protect civilians is doomed to fail -- look at Libya...But does anyone truly believe that the situation in Libya would be better if Qaddafi had been allowed to kill, imprison, or brutalize his people into submission? It's far more likely that without international action, Libya would now be engulfed in civil war and bloodshed."

Zimbabwe

"Indeed, recent events have revealed that its formal decisions have provided camouflage to neo-imperialist forces of aggression seeking to militarily intervene in smaller countries in order to effect regime change and acquire complete control of their wealth. This was so in Libya where in the name of protecting civilians, NATO forces were deployed with an undeclared mission to eliminate Kadaffi and his family."

Egypt

Angola

"We express our deep concern over the escalation of violence that is taking place in Egypt and we add our voice to the call on the transitional authorities to act with moderation. We urge the African Union and the international community to continue their work towards a solution to the crisis in this country."

Bahrain

"We stand side by side with the Arab Republic of Egypt and support it in its efforts to achieve stability and security and to rightfully defend its vital interests and implement the road map leading it to safety and proposing clear steps to realize the aspirations of the Egyptian people and restore its leading role in the Middle East region."

Botswana

"The political upheaval in Egypt is also a cause for grave concern. Of course we believe that former President

Morsi contributed to the present crisis due to his undemocratic and divisive agenda which resulted in the unfortunate military coup. Urgent action is therefore required to restore constitutionality in that country."

Burundi

"Regarding the situation in Egypt, Burundi wishes the Egyptian people a rapid solution to the crisis. We are willing to contribute with our partners in the African Union and the United Nations so that the Arab Republic of Egypt and its people restore its democratic institutions."

Denmark

"In Egypt, an already fragile situation has worsened significantly over the last months in which tragic events have led to a heavy loss of civilian lives. Denmark has sent a strong and clear signal to the Egyptian authorities that democracy and dialogue must return. Progress in Egypt can only come through a peaceful, inclusive process. Many challenges still lie ahead with regard to implementation of the road map for a return to democratic and civilian rule in Egypt. We urge the Egyptian authorities to accept the support of the international community for this process. The UN can play an important role in supporting respect for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law."

Egypt

"We are determined to fully implement the Road Map. This requires us to give utmost priority to the preservation of security and the enforcement of the law, and to counter any intimidation attempts aiming at hindering our efforts. Some parts of Egypt were recently hit by desperate terrorist attacks. Among their victims were Egyptians from all walks of life, men and women, young and old, Muslims and non-Muslims. These hideous acts of terrorism aim at undermining the democratic process, and destroying our economy. I have full confidence that the brave Egyptian people, who succeeded in imposing their will, can put an end to terrorism, within the framework of the rule of law. I trust that the international community, which has for long rejected terrorism, will firmly stand by the Egyptian people in the fight against violence and its advocates, and will not accept any attempt to justify it, or tolerate it."

Guinea-Bissau

“In Egypt and in ravaged Syria, we hope that dialogue and diplomacy prevail over force, so that the sacrifice of so many human lives may be avoided.”

Guyana

“In the same way, let me say that a blow was struck against democracy when a coup took place in Egypt. However, the major world powers, instead of condemning the use of such means to change governments, chose to remain silent. This gave tacit support to the coup which has led to the violation of human rights and may lead to more protests and possible violence.”

Mali

“In Africa, Mali is deeply concerned over the situation in Central Africa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt and Libya, and expresses its strong condemnation of violence as a means of political expression.”

Mauritania

“We hope impatiently for the peoples of Egypt, Yemen, Libya, and Tunisia to quickly complete their transition stages and to inaugurate democratic institutions, guaranteeing their citizens all the rights and a dignified life in a climate of well-being and prosperity.”

Mauritius

“Mauritius also supports the peaceful restoration of democracy in Egypt which has a key role to play in promoting stability and security in the region.”

Tunisia

“I should like to address the current authorities in Egypt and call on them to release President Mohamed Morsi and all political detainees. Such a brave initiative alone is likely to put an end to political tensions and stop the violence and return all parties to dialogue.”

United Arab Emirates

“Egypt witnessed the second wave of revolution on the 30th of June this year, when tens of millions of the Egyptian People expressed their determined will to draw up a roadmap that shapes a better future for their country and lays an inclusive democratic path based on the

participation of all spectrums of society without exclusion and within a policy characterized by moderation, non-violence and without the use of religion as a means of exclusion and classification or breaching sectarianism and hatred. Therefore, the UAE believes that the sovereign measures taken by the Egyptian Government to protect national security as well as the steps taken for implementing the popularly supported roadmap give grounds for optimism and enhances the credibility of the Egyptian Government. I take this opportunity to urge the international community to support Egypt in this critical stage and support the sincere efforts of its interim government in laying the foundations of stability, development and civilian constitutional rule.”

United Kingdom

“Democracy didn't fail in Egypt; a single set of elections failed. Egypt now needs to return to the path of inclusive democracy - the democratic urge remains as strong among the people as when they first rejoiced in Tahrir Square.”

THEMATIC REFERENCES

Prevention of mass atrocity crimes

Armenia

“This March, the Human Rights Council adopted by consensus a resolution "On Prevention of Genocide," initiated by Armenia and co-sponsored by over 60 countries. The recognition, condemnation and prevention of genocide remains a priority for Armenia and we will take necessary actions to prevent new occurrences of the crime of genocide, while keeping high on the agenda the issue of responsibility for the crime against humanity and its denial. As a nation that has survived the first genocide of the twentieth century, Armenia unequivocally welcomes the clear position adopted by the UN member states in precluding any possibility of immunity or pardon for perpetrators of crimes against humanity.”

Belgium

“My country believes that we have equally, among our responsibilities, the **“responsibility to protect.”** Meaning to prevent and fight these crimes, particularly heinous that are genocides, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. In this sense, Belgium

supports completely the action of the United Nations. We will organize in 2014 an international conference on the prevention of genocide in Brussels.”

Chile

“And if a state cannot or does not want to accomplish with this primary duty, then the international community can intervene within the frame of its three accepted pillars: prevention, support of the international community in this task and the proportional use of force, but always in accordance with the United Nation Charter, as a last resort and when strictly essential to prevent or deter genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing or crimes against humanity.”

Costa Rica

“As a concrete measure towards such avoidance, we urge all member states to join the initiative of Australia, Costa Rica, Denmark and Ghana, and designate national focal points for the prevention of atrocities and on **responsibility to protect**.”

Denmark

“An integrated approach to preventive diplomacy, peace-building, peace-keeping, and prevention of atrocities is crucial. The cure against armed conflicts and instability is to invest in democratic structures that protect civilians and their human rights and contribute to socio-economic progress...Denmark agrees with the Secretary General that building societies that are resilient to atrocity crimes increases prospects for long-term peace and stability. The unacceptable suffering in Syria is a tragic reminder of the consequences when no early action to prevent atrocity crimes is undertaken.”

Estonia

“Accountability and the prevention of atrocity crimes have been the priorities of Estonia as a current member of the Human Rights Council.”

Liechtenstein

Liechtenstein firmly believes in the **responsibility to protect** populations from atrocity crimes (**R2P**). Clearly, we have much work to do to put this norm into practice. Our inability to respond to the crisis in Syria demonstrates a crucial weakness in the system: the use of the veto, or its threat, in a manner incompatible with the purposes of the United Nations. This can make the

Security Council irrelevant at times when it is most urgently needed. During this general debate, the President of France has suggested a common code of conduct for Permanent Members of the Security Council. We strongly agree with this proposal. All five Permanent Members should be able to give the world one public commitment: that they will not use their veto to block action aimed at ending or preventing atrocity crimes. This would be crucial to enhance the Council's effectiveness - and its credibility.”

Netherlands

“In his 2011 report on the **Responsibility to Protect**, the Secretary-General rightly pointed out the importance of mediation as a means of preventing atrocity crimes...National legal systems are the foundation of the international legal order. Strengthening national legal systems should make it possible to keep the courtrooms of the International Criminal Court closed. The ICC is inextricably linked to the global chain of legal institutions. It delivers justice in the wake of international crimes, thus helping to prevent future offences. So it is crucial that countries continue to accede to the Rome Statute and that popular support for it is maintained. We need to ensure that countries that have acceded to the Statute continue to work with the ICC.”

Poland

“It is necessary to establish a mechanism which would, in an objective and uncontroversial manner, force harmonious cooperation between the permanent members of the UNSC in the face of situations which fall under the **responsibility to protect** principle, in order to make sure that the prevention of such crimes and the effective response to them prevail over individual geopolitical interests.”

United States of America

“While the U.N. was designed to prevent wars between states, increasingly we face the challenge of preventing slaughter within states. And these challenges will grow more pronounced as we are confronted with states that are fragile or failing – places where horrendous violence can put innocent men, women and children at risk, with no hope of protection from national institutions. I have made it clear that even when America’s core interests are not directly threatened, we stand ready to do our part to prevent mass atrocities and protect human rights.”

Accountability for mass atrocity crimes & the International Criminal Court

Antigua and Barbuda

“Willful and deliberate attacks upon civilians should be taken seriously by the international community and the International Courts should move to act in a manner consistent with international laws and norms.”

Armenia

“This March, the Human Rights Council adopted by consensus a resolution "On Prevention of Genocide," initiated by Armenia and co-sponsored by over 60 countries. The recognition, condemnation and prevention of genocide remains a priority for Armenia and we will take necessary actions to prevent new occurrences of the crime of genocide, while keeping high on the agenda the issue of responsibility for the crime against humanity and its denial. As a nation that has survived the first genocide of the twentieth century, Armenia unequivocally welcomes the clear position adopted by the UN member states in precluding any possibility of immunity or pardon for perpetrators of crimes against humanity.”

Bangladesh

“During our War of Liberation in 1971, Pakistani occupation forces in collaboration with their local cohorts perpetrated genocide, rape, arson and crimes against humanity. Over three million people sacrificed their lives and a quarter of a million women lost their honor to achieve independence. Therefore, since then, it was the ardent hope and aspiration of the nation to bring the perpetrators to justice. Accordingly, our Government constituted two War Crimes Tribunals under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act of 1973 to try them. The trials are being held are maintaining the highest standard of judicial practices.”

Belgium

“Here also pragmatic solutions should be found [in the DRC], thereby without accepting a general amnesty or admitting impunity, in what concerns war crimes or crimes against humanity...”

The restoration of peace can never be built on amnesty and oblivion for the worst crimes. With 56 other states, Belgium has called for the Syrian dossier to be taken to

the International Criminal Court. The Court’s action contributes to the advent of a time of responsibility.”

Bosnia and Herzegovina

“Please allow me to emphasize again that Bosnia and Herzegovina has a very clear stance relating to war crimes: All those accused of war crimes will be held responsible for the crimes of which they are accused of either before international or domestic courts.”

Botswana

“Botswana remains firmly committed to a strong and effective international criminal justice system - hence our continued strong support for the mandate and work of the International Criminal Court. We believe that the Court has a vital role to play in the fight against impunity, genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.”

Bulgaria

“There can be no impunity, and the perpetrators of this heinous attack must be held accountable. Bulgaria, who is one of the countries that signed a letter urging the UN Security Council to immediately refer the situation in Syria to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, joins similar calls, coming from the UN Secretary General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights.”

Burundi

“With regard to the International Criminal Court, Burundi expresses its full solidarity with the Kenyan that have just democratically elected their leaders. My country wants the International Criminal Court to review its mode of operation for the benefit of Member States and the international community in general. Burundi calls for the revision of the Rome Statute at the next General Assembly of States Parties, scheduled from 20 to 28 November 2013. In the meantime, it is important that peace processes and reconciliation on our Continent are not further weakened instead of being strengthened. Burundi has already welcomed the announcement of the holding of the ministerial meeting, the African Union, on the sidelines of the 68th General Assembly on 27 September 2013, and the convening of a Summit of Head of States of the African Union on 11 and 12 October 2013 in Addis Ababa, to make decisions about this.”

Canada

“In the context of war, rape and serious sexual violence are war crimes...The war criminals involved must be identified, pursued, prosecuted and punished.”

Colombia

“We are going to achieve an end to our conflict; but make no mistake, this does not mean that we will relinquish justice, and much less the truth and the reparation of the victims...Colombia is probably the first country in the planet to engage in a process of this nature during the existence of the Rome Statute...Former UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, Louise Arbour, recently stated that the doctrine on International law has not been successful in finding practical answers on solving the existing tension between peace and justice. Madame Arbour recalled paradigmatic cases, such as the tribunals for former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, which have been endowed with immense resources but yielded poor results in this matter...Thus, how can we achieve at the same time the end of the armed conflict, the fulfillment of our investigation and prosecution obligations, and the maximum possible satisfaction of the victims' rights? This dilemma must be confronted with honesty and seriousness, and that is what we are doing in Colombia. Indeed, we have adopted an international strategy for transitional justice. The strategy addresses the principles of truth, justice and reparation, which we hope will enable us to make the transition towards peace...”

In this manner, justice becomes -as it should be- a support, rather than an obstacle for peace. And I want to be clear: there will be NO impunity for crimes against humanity or systematically committed war crimes.”

Costa Rica

“I raise our voice to demand that the Security Council...make accountable those responsible for the horrible crimes committed there. Costa Rica insists that the Security Council refers the Syrian case to the International Criminal Court.”

Croatia

“We are particularly appalled and concerned with the findings and conclusions of the UN Mission's Report on the use of chemical weapons in Ghouta Area on 21 August. Croatia condemns 'in the strongest terms the use of chemical weapons. The international community must make sure that there is no impunity for such crimes and

that the perpetrators of these and other crimes be, held to account...We wholeheartedly supported the strong determination of the international community to finally, once and for all, put an end to the culture of impunity that had for so long accompanied wars and armed conflicts. The establishment of the ad hoc criminal tribunals changed the landscape of international criminal justice and paved the way for a whole new system, with the International Criminal Court (ICC) at its head. . . The establishment of the International Criminal Court in 1998 can be regarded as one of the most important civilization achievements in the last century, and the beginning of a new era of accountability. That is why we are calling those countries that have not yet decided to adopt the Rome Statute to do this as soon as possible.”

Czech Republic

“The confirmed use of chemical weapons in Syria is deeply worrying. Any use of chemical weapons is unacceptable. Whoever gave the order to initiate the chemical attack has gravely violated the principle of **responsibility to protect** the civilian population. This constitutes a war crime and a crime against humanity and its perpetrators should be held accountable before the International Criminal Court.”

Denmark

“At the same time, we must ensure accountability, for human rights violations and for past atrocity crimes. The perpetrators of the crimes must be brought to justice. While the Security Council last Friday took an important step to address the crisis in Syria, Denmark reiterates its call on the Council to refer the case of Syria to the International Criminal Court.”

Estonia

“As a responsible member of the international community, Estonia strongly supports and contributes to the activities of the ICC and ad hoc tribunals created by the UN Security Council. We continue to call for more ratifications of the Rome Statute and of the Crime of Aggression amendment to the Rome Statute. Universality is key ensure that perpetrators of the worst crimes of international concern are held accountable. Accountability and the prevention of atrocity crimes have been the priorities of Estonia as a current member of the Human Rights Council.

Ethiopia

“Unfortunately, the manner in which the International Criminal Court (ICC) has been operating left a very bad impression in Africa. Instead of promoting justice and reconciliation and contributing to peace and stability, it has degenerated into a political instrument targeting Africa and Africans. This is totally unacceptable and that is why Africa has been expressing its serious reservation against the ICC.”

European Union

“The United Nations can play an important role in helping the country [Syria] re-establish unity. And in helping Syria eventually find justice, ensuring there is no impunity, and that individual perpetrators of war crimes are held accountable.”

Finland

“The use of chemical weapons on August 21st near Damascus can be a turning point for the conflict. The universal condemnation of their use as a war crime for which those responsible must be brought to justice through referral to the International Criminal Court. Finland welcomes the agreement reached on a strongly worded Security Council resolution to collect and destroy chemical weapons in Syria under international control. There can be no impunity for the perpetrators of war crimes and other atrocities.”

Germany

“The use of chemical weapons cannot be allowed to go unpunished. This we owe not only to the victims in Syria, but also to future generations. Those responsible for using these weapons must be called to account before the International Criminal Court. It must at last be able to begin its independent investigations.”

Grenada

“Grenada condemns, in the most vehement terms, atrocities and crimes against humanity. As such, we believe that those responsible for the recent deadly use of chemical weapons in Syria must be held accountable by the international community.”

Guatemala

“...we have condemned the massacre [in Syria] against more than one thousand persons murdered with the use

of chemical weapons and have demanded that a crime of this magnitude cannot remain with impunity.”

Hungary

“We urge that perpetrators of all war crimes should be brought to justice. Without justice there is no reconciliation, without chance for reconciliation, there is no lasting settlement.”

Iceland

“A few weeks ago, the world witnessed the use of chemical weapons in Syria. It is hard to find words strong enough to express our condemnation. International law has been broken, war crimes committed and globally agreed values have been shattered. Those responsible must be held accountable and should answer to the International Criminal Court.”

Ireland

“The Security Council has expressed its conviction that there must also be accountability for what has occurred in Syria. The International Criminal Court exists precisely for this purpose. We owe it to the Syrian people to ensure that those responsible for the war crimes committed against them are brought to justice.”

Lebanon

“Lebanon has already condemned the use of chemicals weapons, and it has called on the United Nations, including the Security Council, to assume solely the duty of holding the perpetrators accountable.”

Lesotho

“Whether in Syria, or anywhere else, perpetrators of crimes against humanity must be held legally accountable for their actions. Indeed, the creation of the ICC in 1998 is a beacon that speaks to this truism. We must use institutions such as the ICC and other international legal tribunals as a reflection of the international community's increasing rejection of impunity, and evidence that there is a rising tide in favour of the rule of law. At the same time, we need to ensure that institutions such as the ICC are adequately insulated against politicization.”

Liberia

“We have done much in improving governance and strengthening our institutions of integrity, but still have

much more to do in consolidating the culture of integrity and accountability in a society that is still beset by values occasioned by years of conflict.”

Libya

“We are cooperating with the International Criminal Court in order to expand the scope of investigation with those who committed crimes against the Libyan people, through the implementation of the mechanisms and the rulings of the ICC. We are looking forward to the cooperation of the countries concerned, notably the neighbouring countries, to surrender and extradite the wanted elements of the former regime.”

Liechtenstein

“Syria is our biggest collective accountability failure in recent history. The International Criminal Court (ICC) has been operational for more than a decade now. During this time, we have not witnessed any other situation in which crimes have been committed so systematically, at such a scale, and for such a long time - without any adequate response from the international community. It is well documented that crimes have been and continue to be committed by all sides. This is precisely the type of crisis for which we have established the ICC. And it is precisely the type of situation which led us to give the Security Council the competence to refer situations to the Court. In its recent resolution, the Council has made a limited statement on accountability. More determined and more concrete action must follow. A referral to the ICC will not only ensure that there is no impunity for the atrocious crimes committed in Syria. It will ultimately also contribute to a viable political future for the country: it will isolate those who have committed the most serious crimes, it will provide redress for victims, and it will establish the truth.”

Luxembourg

“The list of war crimes and crimes against humanity, committed on a daily basis, continues to grow. Against this horror, I will not tire of repeating that the situation in Syria must be referred to the International Criminal Court.”

Malta

“We need to stop the wildfire [in Syria]. We need to stop the further descent into brutality and carnage. And those responsible must be brought to international justice.”

Netherlands

“The powerlessness of the international community to put an end to abuses like these has led in the past to the establishment of new bodies and instruments. After the Second World War, the UN was founded and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted. Following more recent genocides, the International Criminal Court was established...”

As the Secretary-General said, “Those responsible for the atrocities in Syria should be held accountable, in accordance with international law.” The use of chemical weapons is a war crime that falls under the Rome Statute. If the Syrian government itself sees no possibility of tracking down and prosecuting the guilty parties, it can ask the ICC to do so. If Syria makes no request, the Security Council must take action...

National legal systems are the foundation of the international legal order. Strengthening national legal systems should make it possible to keep the courtrooms of the International Criminal Court closed. The ICC is inextricably linked to the global chain of legal institutions. It delivers justice in the wake of international crimes, thus helping to prevent future offences. So it is crucial that countries continue to accede to the Rome Statute and that popular support for it is maintained. We need to ensure that countries that have acceded to the Statute continue to work with the ICC.”

Rwanda

“...Africans supported the global consensus against impunity and the creation of an international justice system to fight it...In practice, however, the International Criminal Court has flouted these principles. It has shown open bias against Africans. Instead of promoting justice and peace, it has undermined efforts at reconciliation and served to humiliate Africans and leaders, as well as served the political interests of the powerful. Nowhere have the shortcomings of the ICC been more evident than in the ongoing trial of Kenyan leaders. People of this country, Kenya, have shown eagerness to heal wounds of the past, reconcile, and move on.”

Samoa

“The International Criminal Court is an important part of the architecture of world peace based on the rule of law...”

Slovakia

“The UN plays a key role in ensuring that civilians have access to humanitarian aid, making sure that those who commit crimes against humanity are punished...Slovakia principally condemns use of chemical weapons as a crime against humanity and urgently asks to bring the perpetrators before the International Criminal Court...”

The culture of impunity has no place in today's world. The role of the International Criminal Court in the multilateral system is irreplaceable in this regard, as it focuses on preventing that perpetrators of the most serious crimes will go unpunished. But its decisions must be unquestionable... Therefore, we call on all UN members that have not yet done so to ratify the Rome Statute and its amendments.”

Slovenia

“We call upon the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court. International Criminal Court is an essential pillar of a system of international justice and a powerful tool to ensure accountability and fight against impunity for the most serious crimes. It deserves our full support.”

Somalia

“Before I conclude, let me reiterate that impunity has no place in this world but selective justice and targeted trials are against the principles of promotion of peace, justice and reconciliation. Regrettably, the ICC trials of African leaders became politically motivated and not in line with the cordial objectives and principles, it also denies, healing from wounds of the conflict and jeopardizes national unity and cohesion.”

South Sudan

“The President has also ordered for inevitable disarmament of the civil population. And he has taken legal steps to punish the perpetrators of human rights violations in Jonglei including an SPLA Brigade Commander who is now under arrest together with 13 soldiers who have been sentenced to prison terms that vary from three to five years. Up to now 84 cases of human rights abuses have been tried in the courts of law. We are determined to see that violations committed by some undisciplined SPLA elements will not go unpunished.”

Sudan

“The International Criminal Court has been violating international law. The ICC has been used as a political tool by certain parties in the international arena.”

Sweden

“Those responsible for systematic violations of human rights - including those responsible for the use of chemical weapons - must be held accountable.”

Switzerland

“These crimes [in Syria] must not go unpunished, regardless of which side is responsible. It is for that reason that in January of this year my country, together with fifty-seven like-minded states, called on the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.”

Trinidad and Tobago

“Trinidad and Tobago also submits that if there is prima facie evidence that individuals committed war crimes, within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC), during this protracted conflict [in Syria], steps should be taken to bring those individuals to justice.”

Tunisia

“Indeed there is a need for a political solution to end the nightmare [in Syria]. However, we also want your support for prosecution in the ICC. This would be a further addition to international law to protect people against dictatorships and particularly the Syrian dictatorship, the worst example of how immoral a regime can become in its action...Have we ever seen such a brutal regime, in such a brutal civil war that has gone beyond any of the most-ugly scenes seen in the region in history? Indeed, they ought to be brought to the ICC. Justice delayed cannot return the dead to life.”

Uganda

“The latest manifestation of arrogance is from the ICC in relation to the elected leaders of Kenya. Many African countries supported the setting up of ICC because we abhor impunity. However, the ICC in a shallow, biased way has continued to mishandle complex African issues. This is not acceptable. The ICC should stop. Our advice to them is from very capable actors who know what they are

doing and saying. Kenya is recovering. Let her recover. We know the origin of the past mistakes. The ICC way is not the right one to handle those mistakes.”

United Republic of Tanzania

“You will agree with me that the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court (ICC) was a major milestone of the international criminal justice system. Indeed, the Court's creation as a machinery for fighting impunity was only possible with the support of Africa. However, a decade after its entry into force, a rift has grown between the Court and the continent. The court is perceived as irresponsible to what are, in our view, legitimate concerns of African people. It continues to ignore repeated requests and appeals by the African Union. It was sad to note that legitimate requests regarding the timing of the trials of President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto went unanswered. This attitude has become a major handicap that fails to reconcile the Court's secondary and complementary role in fighting impunity. Indeed, the Court's rigidity has proven counterproductive and stands to undermine the support it enjoys in Africa.”

National R2P Focal Points

Costa Rica

“As a concrete measure towards such avoidance, we urge all member states to join the initiative of Australia, Costa Rica, Denmark and Ghana, and designate national focal points for the prevention of atrocities and on **responsibility to protect.**”

Denmark

“Advancing the **primary responsibility of states to protect their populations** should be a concern of all governments. The **responsibility to protect** is consistent with existing obligations and international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law which are binding on all States. Denmark calls on Member States to join the global network of "**Responsibility to Protect**" focal points that work to integrate atrocity prevention in national policies and to engage with other Member States and regional organizations to build capacity and cooperation before crises and conflicts break out.”

UN Security Council Veto Restraint/Code of Conduct

Chile

“And we join in the appeals to countries with the right of veto to refrain from exercising that right in situations of crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide or ethnic cleansing, since doing so prevents the Council from effectively defending the most fundamental values and principles of mankind.”

Costa Rica

“We also call again on the five Permanent Members of the Security Council to refrain in the future from exercising the veto in cases of crimes against humanity.”

Croatia

“The enlargement of the Council is closely connected with a reform of its working methods, while the continuation of the veto powers of the Council continues to raise numerous questions. That is why the reform needs to be a comprehensive one.”

France

“Therefore, the responsibility of the United Nations is to act. And each time that our organization chose itself to be without power and without force, it is peace that will be the first victim. This is the reason that I would propose a code of good conduct be defined among the permanent Members of the Security Council and in cases of massive crimes it can decide for a collective renunciation to their right of the veto.”

Liechtenstein

Liechtenstein firmly believes in the **responsibility to protect** populations from atrocity crimes (**R2P**). Clearly, we have much work to do to put this norm into practice. Our inability to respond to the crisis in Syria demonstrates a crucial weakness in the system: the use of the veto, or its threat, in a manner incompatible with the purposes of the United Nations. This can make the Security Council irrelevant at times when it is most urgently needed. During this general debate, the President of France has suggested a common code of conduct for Permanent Members of the Security Council. We strongly agree with this proposal. All five Permanent Members should be able to give the world one public

commitment: that they will not use their veto to block action aimed at ending or preventing atrocity crimes. This would be crucial to enhance the Council's effectiveness - and its credibility.”

Mexico

“The challenges we face today, compel us to have a Security Council that: Truly represents the international community and does not extend privileges to a few; is transparent and with working methods that include genuine accountability; and limits the exercise of veto power when faced with genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.”

Netherlands

“The Netherlands supports the proposal that permanent Security Council members should henceforth refrain from using their vetoes in votes on intervention to stop the mass atrocity crimes identified by the 2005 world summit. They should show they are serious about their **responsibility to protect** vulnerable populations, underlining our consensus that genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing must never be tolerated.”

New Zealand

“This Organisation would not also have been a powerless bystander to the Syrian tragedy for over two years if the lack of agreement among the Security Council's Permanent Members had not shielded the Assad regime - thereby re-confirming the fears of New Zealand and others who had opposed the veto at the original San Francisco conference in 1945...We now seem to have a practice whereby the Permanent Members can not only block Council actions through the veto...”

Slovenia

“Decisive progress in Security Council reform is required to improve the efficiency, transparency and accountability of the Council. As part of this effort the permanent members should consider refraining from the use of a veto in situations of genocide, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law.”

UN Security Council Reform

Angola

“Concerning the global efforts for the maintenance of international peace and security, we reiterate the importance of the revitalization of the United Nations system, particularly the reform of the Security Council, which should reflect a fair representation of all regions by increasing the number of its permanent members, thus adapting it to the realities of the contemporary world.”

Algeria

“Strengthening the legitimacy of the United Nations and strengthening its role commands that reform cannot be unduly delayed...It is finally to agree on a democratic reform of the Security Council, also covering working methods well as its composition...”

Benin

“Also, the paralysis of the UN in the face of political-military crises demonstrates how urgent it is to reform the international system, particularly, the Security Council. The attainment of this reform would be the concrete proof of the UN's engagement in favor of an inclusive and less polemic management of the great contemporary problems.”

Bhutan

“The General Assembly must be revitalized and its role strengthened. The UN Security Council membership in both the permanent and non-permanent categories must be expanded in keeping with contemporary realities and to make the Council a more representative body.”

Bosnia and Herzegovina

“United Nations reform should provide efficient and coordinated functioning of all segments and bodies of the system. It is widespread opinion that reform of the Security Council is crucial for core reform of the world organization. This reform, done with consensus of the member states, is necessary for reasons of efficiency and credibility, and that is only possible taking into account contemporary geopolitical reality, which differs from the one of 1945. Because only Security Council reformed in that manner can have full authority and respectability in addressing the most important issues of international peace and security, mandate entrusted to the Council by

the United Nations Charter. Dialogue and compromise are the best way to insure the widest possible support, and Bosnia and Herzegovina supports the opinion that Security Council reform should be moved from a standstill as soon as possible.”

Brazil

“The limited representation of the UN Security Council is an issue of grave concern, considering the challenges posed by the 21st century...In dealing with important issues, the recurring polarization between permanent members generates a dangerous paralysis. We must provide the Council with voices that are at once independent and constructive. Only the expansion of the number of permanent and non-permanent members and the inclusion of developing countries in both categories will correct the Council's deficit of representation and legitimacy.”

Bulgaria

“My country is convinced that the course of reforms of the UN should continue in order to enhance the efficiency, representativeness and transparency of the entire system of the United Nations. To meet the needs of our changing world, the UN should continuously adapt and improve. This includes a revitalized UN General Assembly, a strengthened ECOSOC and a UN Security Council reflecting contemporary realities.”

Cambodia

“Since the establishment of the UN in 1945, the global situation has changed so dramatically that there is a call for strengthening global diplomacy. In this context, the reform of the UN should be comprehensive and cover not only the Security Council, but also other UN organs, in order to maintain their relevance and legitimacy as an effective global governance institution to cope with the present world's reality...The Security Council should be expanded in both permanent and non-permanent membership in an equitable manner so that it represents both the developed and the developing countries. There is an acute need for a comprehensive reform of the Council where real negotiations and compromises can take place.”

Cape Verde

“Our vision of the United Nations is of a more cohesive and united organization, in which efforts are directed towards the prosperity of Nations. Our vision is of the General Assembly as a great forum for dialogue on

Global Challenges of the Planet and Mankind. And our vision of its Security Council is of one with a more balanced representation more suited to the geopolitical developments that the World has known since 1945.”

Chad

“It is our fervent wish to see, finally, the implementation of the desired reform of the UN, particularly the Security Council. This reform has become a matter of justice and fairness...[the UN] can no longer allow our continent to be kept out of this prestigious institution that is the UN Security Council.”

Chile

“And a good starting-point is progress towards real and far-reaching reform of the Security Council, including enlargement of its permanent and non-permanent membership to ensure proper regional representation, as well as strengthening and transparency of its working methods and decision-making, all aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and legitimacy of the Council's actions...Chile supports the inclusion of Brazil, Germany, Japan and India as permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and the African continent's request for fair representation.”

Croatia

“With regard to the indispensable reform of the international system, we have renewed our countries' commitment to multilateralism and a comprehensive reform of the United Nations system, and to the democratization of international decision making instances, in particular, the Security Council.”

Cuba

“Therefore, in recent days, after the situation in Syria worsened, CELAC reiterated its vocation for peace and observance of the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and International Law, including the International Humanitarian Law, and demanded that the necessary conditions are created to move on towards a negotiated political solution to the Syrian conflict, which has taken a toll on the lives of thousands of innocent people.”

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

“The UN Security Council reform which is the key component of the UN reform should be undertaken on

the basis of principles of ensuring accountability, transparency and impartiality in its activities and ensuring full representation of developing countries in its composition.”

Denmark

“We need a UN which reflects the changing political landscape -including through a reformed Security Council.”

Egypt

“The only logical and sound way to achieve this desired outcome is through the reform and expansion of the Security Council. Egypt renews its call to end the hegemony of permanent members over the decision-making process in the Council, and to rectify the historical injustice inflicted on Africa. The continent does not have a permanent seat in the Council, and is poorly represented in the category of non-permanent members.”

Equatorial Guinea

“...there is no other alternative but to reform these Organs, especially the Security Council, to make them more democratic to fairly protect the interests of all nations.”

Gabon

“We have an obligation to transform our international institutions to make them more responsive to current challenges. The reform of the Security Council, strengthening the role and authority of the General Assembly, the reform of the Economic and Social Council, are desirable.”

The Gambia

“...instead of acting as an effective mechanism for conflict prevention, and resolution, as well as advancing global security, the Security Council has become a barrier to progress, peace and security in some instances where lopsided decisions can only be classified as racist and misguided and therefore unacceptable. Africa's legitimate quest for full representation on the Security Council continues to be a strong warning that needs to be urgently heeded...The Gambia remains resolute in her stance that the permanent and non-permanent membership categories of the Security Council should be equitably distributed regionally and expanded to conform to current geopolitical realities. The Gambia stands by

Africa's demand for two permanent seats as well as two non-permanent seats...”

Germany

“A Security Council without permanent seats for Africa and Latin America does not reflect the realities of today's world. A Security Council in which Asia, that emerging and highly populated region, is represented with only one single permanent seat does not reflect the realities of today's world. Germany, with its partners Japan, India and Brazil, is prepared to assume greater responsibility. In essence it is a matter of strengthening the United Nations. The authority of the United Nations depends on its being representative.”

Ghana

“We have come a long way since the end of the last global war, yet the makeup of the U.N. Security Council is not a reflection of that development. Ghana, therefore, supports a reform of the U.N. Security Council.”

India

“The UN Security Council must be reformed and restructured to reflect current political realities. More developing countries should be included as both permanent and non-permanent members.”

Iraq

“...we believe that the time has come to repair bodies in the forefront of the UN Security Council as the body first on international peace and security in order to be consistent with the aspirations of the peoples of the world in the twenty-first century and more representative, transparent and able to meet the challenges.”

Italy

“On the theme of "adapting to a changing world", allow me to conclude by referring to the reform of the Security Council. As a leading member of the Uniting for Consensus group, Italy strongly believes that Security Council reform is absolutely necessary. The adoption of any such reform, however, will require the consensus of a large majority of the membership. We need to update the Security Council to today's world, increasing its accountability, transparency and effectiveness.”

Japan

“The Security Council must be reformed without delay. Japan's aspiration to become a permanent member of the Council has not changed in the slightest.”

Kyrgyzstan

“Considering that decisions of the UN Security Council should be strictly complied with by all UN member states, we stand for expanding its membership in order to make it more representative, transparent and democratic.”

Lebanon

“...intensify the ongoing endeavors aimed at reforming and developing the United Nations' organs and specialized agencies, commensurate with the current progress, in order to restore confidence in its capacity to address international problems, counter crime, take the appropriate relevant resolutions and implement them without any hurdles, away from selectivity and double standards.”

Libya

“The reform of the Security Council, to which we aspire, remains elusive due to the widening gap between the positions of the Member States and lack of political will for some of them. In this regard, we urge all parties to be flexible to allow for an agreement on a fair reform formula that takes into account the interests of all geographical groups. Here, I would like to emphasize the just request for the equitable representation of Africa in the Security Council, both in the permanent and non-permanent membership categories, so the United Nations would become more democratic and efficient; and that all Member States would contribute to achieve its lofty goals”

Liechtenstein

“Unfortunately, we have not yet reached the point where we are able to bring the composition of the Security Council in line with the geopolitical realities of the twenty-first century. But the Council is also struggling to adjust its working methods to new challenges and to better include the perspective of non-members in its decisions - which is a crucial ingredient for effective leadership. We will therefore continue our efforts to promote accountability and transparency in the Council's operations.”

Maldives

“The Maldives, along with other states, have been calling on to reform the United Nations Security Council, to make it more inclusive and therefore credible; to be reflective of the voices of not only the powerful, but also the weak; to be more representative of the global populations and geographical distributions. In addition to the Council's composition, its working methods must be improved. Only then, can the United Nations restore its credibility, authority and legitimacy.”

Mali

“Despite the progress made, much remains to be done in particular with regard to the necessary reform of the Security Council... With regard to the reform of the Security Council, Mali reiterates its adherence to the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, and supports the legitimate claim of Africa to have two permanent seats and five non-permanent seats. A reformed Security Council would better reflect the geopolitical realities of today's world, and would repair the historic injustice done to Africa, the only part of the world that does not have a permanent seat in the Security Council.”

Mauritius

“In this context, we should work together on the reform of the Security Council, the revitalization of the General Assembly and improving the working methods of our organization. Mauritius believes that a comprehensive reform of the Security Council should include reform in the membership of both the permanent and non-permanent categories. We reaffirm our commitment to the African Common position enshrined in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration. We believe that Africa should not be deprived of its right to permanent representation in the Council. Likewise, we believe that Latin America deserves permanent representation in the Council and that SIDS should also be entitled to a seat on the Council. Mauritius further reiterates its support to India's legitimate aspiration to a permanent seat in a reformed Security Council.”

Mexico

“The challenges we face today, compel us to have a Security Council that: Truly represents the international community and does not extend privileges to a few; is transparent and with working methods that include

genuine accountability; and limits the exercise of veto power when faced with genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.”

Montenegro

“We believe that reform and reorganization of the Security Council, as the key actor in preserving international peace, is necessary, as well as the revitalization of the General Assembly and ECOSOC reform. The overall UN reform, especially the SC reform, will strongly contribute to strengthening the position, relevance and authority of the Organization itself and will bring it into harmony with the modern geo-political processes and challenges.”

Mozambique

“In this context, the reform of the United Nations, particularly of its Security Council, must continue to deserve our special attention, to ensure that this body is representative, democratic and credible, so that it can respond effectively respond to the different challenges of the contemporary world.”

Namibia

“The process of the reform of the United Nations system, especially the Security Council must be accelerated in order to make it representative and democratic.”

Nepal

“Nepal holds the view that the reform at the Security Council should reflect changes in contemporary political and economic realities. It should be more representative in composition, transparent in functioning, democratic in character, balanced between the North and South and, above all, be capable of taking prompt action when peace is threatened.”

New Zealand

“The rationale for UN reform is clear. Membership has quadrupled since 1945. Over the same period, its key organs - particularly the Security Council – have become hostage to their own traditions and to the interests of the most powerful. From the 1950s through into the 1990s, we could blame the Cold War when the Security Council did not act. That does not wash today. The problems are more systemic and relate both to the composition, as well as the formal and informal processes of the Council. We now seem to have a practice whereby the Permanent

Members cannot only block Council actions through the veto. They also appear to have privileged access to information and can stop the Council from meeting if it does not suit their collective purposes. Such behaviors damage the reputation and credibility of the wider Organisation and must be challenged. These are not necessarily matters of Charter reform, which we know is difficult, but of the effective functioning of the Organisation - an issue in which we all have a stake. New Zealand is not advocating revolution but we are asserting the Council can and must do better in the way it conducts its business.”

Nigeria

“I believe that I express the concern of many about the slow pace of effort and apparent lack of progress in the reform of the United Nations, especially the Security Council. We believe strongly, that the call for democratization worldwide should not be for States only, but also, for International Organisations such as the UN. That is why we call for the democratization of the Security Council.”

Pakistan

“The United Nations needs reform. But it should be a reform that reflects the interests of all; not the ambitions of a few. We believe that the Security Council's composition should be made more representative, democratic and equitable; and its work more effective, transparent and accountable. The intended reforms must however plan for a dynamic future not entrench or replicate outdated historical patterns, based on privileges.”

Palau

“We are hopeful that the Security Council expansion and reform process will result in Japan's Permanent Membership on the Security Council.”

Papua New Guinea

“We call for the UN Security Council to be reformed in order to reflect today's geopolitical realities.”

Peru

“...in order to make the UN system more legitimate, representative, accountable, and effective through the strengthening of its principal organs, specialized agencies and organizations in the areas of security,

development, and Human Rights. Peru shares the position upheld by a large number of Member States on the need to reform and expand the Security Council to reflect the realities of the twenty-first century.”

Poland

“We should not procrastinate or wait for another anniversary as a pretext to return to our efforts to reform the Security Council in a way that would also bolster its authority, legitimacy (representativeness) and effectiveness. At the same time, it is about a more systemic solution, not just limited to the Security Council.”

Portugal

“However, the reform of our Organization will never be complete without Security Council reform, which includes its methods of work and, most of all, its composition. It is increasingly difficult to justify why countries such as Brazil and India are not permanent members of the Council. As stated in previous occasions, Portugal is of the view that Africa also deserves permanent representation in that body. Africa must be treated with justice and in a way reflecting its size, its economic growth and its weight in the today's world.”

Qatar

“...the decision-making process at the Security Council has become in need of change since it lacks fairness and objectivity. It has also become a major obstacle to preserving international peace and security and to the punishment of war criminals and perpetrators of crimes against humanity. Therefore, we affirm the importance of accelerating the process of Security Council reform in order for it to be more capable for dealing objectively with global challenges and responding to the aspirations of people.”

Republic of the Congo

“The reform of the United Nations is urgent and possible. It must be based on the principles of democracy, justice, and equality. In this optic, the cycle of intergovernmental negotiations on the question of the equitable representation of the Security Council and the increase of the number of its members and related issues should result in a consensual framework of concrete results.”

St. Lucia

“Mr. President, as you are aware, Caribbean Community states have been actively engaged in developments relating to Member States' commitment to the reform of the Security Council. An activity in which Saint Lucia's Permanent Representative has been directly involved, with particular reference to the issue of the expansion of both the permanent and nonpermanent membership of the Council, thus giving further legitimacy to the decision-making of the body. We look forward to deliberate progress on this matter.”

Samoa

“Still more fundamental reform is required to address the existing imbalances in the current power structure of the Security Council through the enlargement in both categories of membership and improvements to its working methods to reflect the realities of the present time and to enhance the Council's role and effectiveness.”

Senegal

“Change is also the need to reform the Security Council. The Council's legitimacy is not only derived from its status of guarantor of the collective security system. It is also and especially derived from the representativeness that justifies its action in the name and on behalf of all member States.

Sierra Leone

“As the Coordinator of the African Union Committee of Ten Heads of State on the Security Council Reform, let me once more emphasize the need for urgent reform of the Council. The role of the United Nations should be strengthened and not weakened. The need for an equitable geographical representation, with all privileges, in the membership of the Security Council cannot be over-emphasized. Africa will therefore continue to work closely with relevant stakeholders and member states, particularly other non-permanent members, of the Security Council for an early and decisive reform of the Council.”

Slovenia

“The Security Council has a primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security under the UN Charter. It exercises this responsibility on behalf of all of us. It has an obligation to deliver and fulfill the mandate entrusted to it by the international community.

Especially in this period of tensions and challenges, the responsibility of the major UN Member States is even greater, since in recent years we have witnessed too many divisions in the Council that have impeded its ability to act in a timely manner. Decisive progress in Security Council reform is required to improve the efficiency, transparency and accountability of the Council.”

Solomon Islands

“Solomon Islands would like to see a strong United Nations. We are encouraged by your [President of the General Assembly] commitment to see real progress on reforming and revitalizing two of our principal organs, the Security Council and the General Assembly. We assure you of our support on these two endeavors.”

South Africa

“...the UN Security Council still remains undemocratic, unrepresentative and unfair to developing nations and small states, and disenfranchises the majority of the Member States of the United Nations who form the majority in this General Assembly...There has been too much talk about the need for reform, with too little action. We would like to challenge the Assembly today: Let us set ourselves the target to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations in 2015, with a reformed, more inclusive, democratic and representative UN Security Council.”

Spain

“For this reason, this General Assembly must address the question of the reform of the Security Council. This reform can only be achieved from a broad consensus founded on the principles of accountability, transparency and cooperation, seeking to provide greater legitimacy and support for the Council's actions.”

Sudan

“The reform of the UN and its subsidiary bodies is a matter of some urgency and importance. It is time for a practical process to start with a clear work program so that the international system can act in a manner that is fair and effective so that it can take up the challenges that it faces. But no progress will be made in reform until the GA can play its full part and exercise all of its powers without any intimidation from the Security Council. The matter of reform of the Security Council is also of some importance to Sudan because that will

mean that there is a real reform in the UN organization. The Security Council today does not reflect the realities of the world.”

Swaziland

“The issue of the reform of the Security Council remains a top priority to the African continent. We are calling for a Security Council that will give equal opportunities to all regions of the world, to voice their opinions in global issues of conflict as an international family.”

Thailand

“Too often, however, the Council is paralyzed just when action is most needed. Overcoming deadlock and achieving consensus must be a central objective of Security Council reform.”

Timor-Leste

“In a world rapidly transitioning to globalization, the Security Council must perfect its ability to effectively respond and adjust its composition to better reflect the realities of the 21st century. New powers, such as India, Indonesia and Brazil, among others, must be granted permanent member status in the Security Council. At the same time, my country values the need for a better representation of medium-sized and small countries with relevant contributions to stability and peace.”

Turkey

“We must realize that inaction by the Security Council only emboldens aggressive regimes. We need a UN capable of forcing the perpetrators of brutal actions to submit to justice and the rule of law. Only through such a UN can we achieve the truly peaceful world envisioned by this institution's founders. Yet, as much as this remains a noble goal, it is also an urgent necessity. Decisive action is the only way that the UN system will remain relevant and credible. To face this new reality, we need a Security Council which is truly democratic, representative, effective, and accountable.”

Ukraine

“We believe it is critically important to achieve early progress in the modernization of the UN Security Council. Even greater is our concern about the present stagnancy of the process. I would like to confirm time and again the readiness of Ukraine to discuss all progressive concepts of the Security Council reform that are capable

of accelerating the implementation of the long-overdue changes. We consider that the reform must account for legitimate interests of all regional groups, including the Eastern European one.”

United Kingdom

“The Security Council must be reformed. Unless more room is made at the top table, it will become an anachronism - a relic of a different time. That is why the UK continues to support permanent seats for Brazil, India, Germany and Japan, and permanent African representation too.”

United Republic of Tanzania

“...Africa will not relent in demanding reform of the Security Council so that the continent, with the largest membership of the UN, has a permanent vote.”

Zambia

“My address to this [September] Assembly would be incomplete if I did not underscore Zambia’s and indeed Africa’s desire to realize a more democratic and representative United Nations Security Council.”

Zimbabwe

“For Africa, the reform of the United Nations Security Council is especially long overdue. The anachronistic and unrepresentative character of the Security Council must be redressed. For how long should Africa continue to be denied the right to play a pivotal role in the United Nations Security Council as it decides measures on conflicts within its own borders? The Security Council needs to be more representative, democratic, transparent, accountable and accessible to the wider membership for its decisions to have more legitimacy.”

Arms Trade Treaty

Antigua and Barbuda

“This [Arms Trade] Treaty would, among other things, assist Antigua and Barbuda in enhancing our capacity to tackle the scourge created by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, which is associated with other trans-boundary crimes, such as drug trafficking.

We have emphasized throughout the whole process that these crimes have impacted negatively on the socioeconomic well-being of our societies. Antigua and Barbuda stresses the importance of the early entry into force of the ATT and will continue to work with alacrity with member states to ensure its entry into force.”

Australia

“As co-author, we worked to secure the adoption of the world's first Arms Trade Treaty, which has now been signed by the majority of the UN membership, with a further 18 signatories during the course of this week.”

Austria

“Multilateral cooperation can deliver solutions to global problems. The historic accomplishment of the Arms Trade Treaty was an important sign in this regard. We look forward to its earliest possible entry into force. At the same time, the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime is being challenged day by day through alarming developments.”

Bahamas

“The Bahamas has this year signed the Arms Trade Treaty and we encourage all states that have not already done so to sign this Treaty as well. And to those countries that produce the guns that end up taking innocent lives and causing terror in our communities, we implore them to become more proactive in controlling the export of guns. We implore them to step up the policing of their own borders against arms traffickers.”

Bangladesh

“I am happy again to be the first in the region to sign the Arms Trade Treaty...Our role on world affairs is based on justice and democratic values, which assures international peace and security, and supports disarmament.”

Barbados

“In Barbados, and the Caribbean, illicit small arms and light weapons are the weapons of mass destruction. Primarily linked to international drug trafficking and other transnational organised crime, the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the Caribbean exacts a heavy toll on state and citizen security and impairs national development. For this reason, Barbados, and CARICOM, consistently argued for the elaboration of

a robust, legally-binding ATT, which would set the highest common international standards for regulating the transfer of conventional arms...It is our hope that the implementation of the Treaty will lead to a reduction in the flow of illicit small arms, light weapons, their ammunition, parts and components, thus contributing to the reduction in armed conflict and violence.”

Belize

“We were very pleased by the adoption earlier this year of the Arms Trade Treaty and we will, in due course, ratify same. We have also enacted a whole raft of legislation to strengthen our crime fighting capabilities.”

Benin

“We will strengthen the authority of international regulatory regimes and advance disarmament projects ... In this respect there is reason to welcome the conclusion of Arms Trade Treaty.”

Bosnia and Herzegovina

“Bosnia and Herzegovina will sign the Arms Trade Treaty during the Arms Treaty Event.”

Botswana

“Botswana welcomes the adoption earlier this year, of the long overdue Arms Trade Treaty. The Treaty establishes common international standards for the regulation of international trade in conventional arms, ammunition, parts and components for the purpose of contributing to international peace and security.”

Bulgaria

“We hope that this new international instrument will very soon become an effective tool in limiting the illicit arms flow to conflict zones, thus consolidating peace and security.”

Cambodia

“Against this backdrop, Cambodia welcomes the signing of the Arms Trade Treaty, the first ever international treaty to regulate the trade of conventional weapons. This Treaty would be an effective deterrent against excessive and destabilizing arms flows, particularly in conflict-prone regions. Cambodia will soon add itself to the current list of 84 signatories and urges other nations to join them and together push for the required 50

ratifications and implementation of the Treaty so that it could make a real difference in people's lives.”

Costa Rica

“On April 2nd, we conclusively ratified the Arms Trade Treaty, a vital step for our country and a victory for humanity.”

Croatia

“Croatia is also very concerned about the issue of uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their excessive accumulation. We believe that these weapons present a great risk for the stability and security of many weak and fragile areas around the world. A milestone in this area is the successful completion and opening for signature of the international Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), a uniquely drafted document establishing rules and criteria for trade in conventional arms. Croatia as an original signatory state would like to add its voice to those requesting urgent and universal adherence to this treaty and its expedited entry into force.”

Czech Republic

“The Czech Republic highly appreciates that the international community was finally able to complete the negotiations of the Arms Trade Treaty.”

Denmark

“Unregulated and irresponsible international trade in arms has had devastating effects. Earlier this year, the General Assembly made history by adopting the Arms Trade Treaty. Denmark supports the swift entry into force and effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. Denmark is committed to assisting States, on their request, to meet their obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty.”

Dominica

“On April 2, 2013, the Commonwealth of Dominica was one of the overwhelming number of member states voting in favor of the first international treaty to regulate the trade of conventional weapons, the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Today we are pleased that the ATT is now a reality.”

Estonia

“Every year, over half a million people die as a result of illegal or irresponsible arms transfers. Enormous amounts of money and resources are spent on arms, often at the expense of more vital needs. We see the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty in the framework of the United Nations in June as a historic milestone for the world community.”

Finland

“All our failures and disappointments notwithstanding there has also been one true success story for the United Nations this year. I am referring to the Arms Trade Treaty, which was adopted in April after decades of efforts. It was a success not only for the United Nations system, but for the whole international community and the arms control regime. The importance of this Treaty has been confirmed by the growing number of signatures after the 3rd of June when the ATT was open for signature. We hope and expect that the signature by the United States of the ATT will be followed by all the other permanent members of the Security Council.”

Ghana

“...Ghana enthusiastically threw its support behind the Arms Trade Treaty just adopted by the UN General Assembly. International trade in conventional arms and ammunition must be regulated.”

Grenada

“On June 3, 2013, Grenada joined 83 States in signing the Arms Trade Treaty, on the very first morning the Treaty was opened for signature. Work is already under way at the national level for the ratification of the Treaty as yet another signal of Grenada's commitment to peace and security.”

Guyana

“Mr. President, the adoption in April of this year of the landmark Arms Trade Treaty opens the door to effective regulation of the international trade in conventional arms. For us in the Caribbean, the Treaty bears relevance not only to the safety and security of our citizens and to the fight against transnational crime but in an important way to our overall pursuit of sustainable development. The funneling of guns into our societies is a menace that must be curbed in order to preserve our youth and our future. As one of the first countries to ratify the Treaty,

Guyana urges all states to work to assure its early entry into force.”

Iceland

“The latest accomplishment is the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty. Iceland is proud to be the first State to ratify this landmark Treaty. We call on all States - in particular arms exporters - to do so as well, so that it enters into force without delay.”

Italy

Italy is engaged in international initiatives related to peace and security, such as the Arms Trade Treaty, which we speedily ratified, one of the first signatories to do so.

Jamaica

“Increased collaboration is necessary in confronting such threats to human development. To this end, we welcome the recent opening for signature of the landmark Arms Trade Treaty in June of this year which represents one of many steps that the international community must take towards defeating terrorism, crime and violence. Jamaica is currently undertaking efforts towards ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty.”

Liechtenstein

“The establishment of the International Criminal Court was the most significant development in international law in the past decades. Only the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty earlier this year has come even close in significance.”

Luxembourg

“We all know the disastrous effects of the unregulated trade in conventional arms: violent repressions, armed conflicts, crime, widespread violence. That is why the Arms Trade Treaty is so crucially important...The Arms Trade Treaty is a significant step forward for international law, international humanitarian law and human rights.”

Mexico

“Human security is also affected by the irresponsible use and illicit traffic of conventional weapons. Mexico applauds the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty. With great vision, the Mexican Senate overwhelmingly

approved the Treaty last week and I was honored to deposit the instrument of ratification here at the United Nations. Mexico will comply with it even before its entry into force. Mexico calls upon all Member States to ratify this Treaty, a testament to our Organization's ability to achieve common solutions to shared challenges.”

Moldova

“Let me mention one of the most important achievements of this august Assembly: the adoption the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which became possible after several years of intense discussions and negotiations on the regulation of the global arms trade. The Republic of Moldova has signed the ATT and we hope that the rapid entry into force of its features make the global arms trade more transparent and legitimate.”

Montenegro

“Adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) as the first legally binding instrument in this area, will undoubtedly contribute to the global efforts in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. It is an honour for me to emphasize that Montenegro has from the outset firmly supported a comprehensive and strong wording of the Arms Trade Treaty and was among the first 65 countries to sign it. Aware of the importance of its early coming into effect, we will make our best efforts to ensure its speedy ratification.”

Nepal

“Nepal supports nuclear weapons free zones, keeping the outer space free of weapons, and controlling small arms and light weapons from the reach of illicit hands. The Arms Trade Treaty is a landmark achievement of this year.”

New Zealand

“New Zealand also recognizes the importance to Africa, to the Caribbean and to our own region of the Arms Trade Treaty adopted in April and signed by New Zealand and many others on the 3rd of June. This Treaty should curb the flows of small arms and other weapons, especially to conflict regions, and help arrest the deaths and human misery that are they cause.”

Nigeria

“It is regrettable that these scourges (small arms and light weapons) are sustained by unfettered access by non-state

actors to illicit small arms and light weapons with which they foster insecurity and instability across our continent. For us in Africa, these are the weapons of mass destruction...Our hope is that upon its entry into force, the ATT would herald an era of accountable trade in conventional arms which is critical to the security of nations.”

Papua New Guinea

“Papua New Guinea welcomes the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty that will regulate the trade and transfer of conventional arms, including Small Arms and Light Weapons.”

Romania

“Ensuring peace and security through international cooperation is one of the main tasks of our Organization. In this framework we set for ourselves important goals in the past couple of years and we proved that working together can lead to concrete achievements and substantial results. It is the case of the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty. We have managed to deliver jointly a concrete tool meant at ensuring a safer world and addressing the challenges affecting the security of all our citizens.”

St. Kitts and Nevis

“St. Kitts and Nevis appreciates the strides that we have made with the Arms Trade Treaty and would encourage that we move with alacrity to ensure its coming into force. However, as small island states with open borders we see the relevance of establishing international standards and controls that will govern the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons through our ports.”

St. Vincent & the Grenadines

“This year, the international community has recognised that genuine and lasting peace between and within nations, cities and villages cannot occur in an environment that permits the unregulated trade in small arms and light weapons. The Arms Trade Treaty that we negotiated...is far weaker than we would have liked. Nonetheless, we consider it an important first step in regulating the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons worldwide, and particularly into our Caribbean region, where the tide of guns is oftentimes accompanied by torrents of narcotics malting their way to markets in other countries.”

Samoa

“In June this year, during the historical signing event of the Arms Trade Treaty, Samoa announced that it would sign the treaty at the highest political level during the UN Treaty Event of the present UNGA...We welcome the fact that more than 100 nations, including the United States have now signed the treaty. For small island countries like Samoa, it only takes a few small arms and light weapons in the wrong hands, to cause instability. Indeed within our own Pacific region, these so called small arms have fuelled conflicts and disrupted the lives of communities and impeded development of countries. The Arms Trade Treaty, when fully implemented will greatly assist the efforts of small island states like mine in sustaining the security and stability of our communities. Our signing the ATT is also further testimony to our firm commitment to general and complete disarmament, as it will contribute significantly to saving lives, stop human rights abuses, avoid crises and is an important step to reduce and eventually eliminate altogether, the human cost of conventional arms.”

Serbia

“Serbia's commitment to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which we recently signed, is based on the belief that the establishment of legally binding international standards in this field is a significant contribution to eliminating illegal arms trade, the fight against international terrorism and organized crime, promotion of peace, security and stability – or in a nutshell - alleviation of human suffering.”

Seychelles

“As one of the first signatories of the Arms Trade Treaty, Seychelles also urges all nations to actively engage to reduce the risk of arms trades which remains one of the biggest challenges for our region and the world.”

Sierra Leone

“Sierra Leone welcomes the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty early this year. This is a significant and historic achievement in our collective effort in pursuit of a safer and more secure world. We therefore hope that the illegal transfer of conventional weapons to the wrong hands, a major source of the escalation of conflicts in the developing world, particularly in Africa, can now be largely regulated and minimized.”

Slovakia

“The signing of the Arms Trade Treaty has shown that the UN has the potential to make history and substantively contribute to increasing security in the world through its shared commitment to taking a responsible approach to arms trading. Slovakia believes that the joint effort of the international community can ensure the treaty will soon enter into force. We are prepared to do everything necessary in this respect.”

Solomon Islands

“Solomon Islands remains an arms free state. We note the use of conventional and unconventional arms in the wrong hands threaten international peace and stability. Solomon Islands welcomes the recently adopted Arms Trade Treaty and hope major players of arms trade sign up to the international framework. This will strengthen the treaty, Solomon Islands continues to follow and assess the treaty's progress.”

Spain

“Spain works to promote disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, and has taken an active part in the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations.”

Trinidad and Tobago

“At the international level, we are stalwart supporters of the Arms Trade Treaty, agreed to in March of this year/ and which we have already signed and ratified. In the light of our experiences and challenges with the impact of crime, violence and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons/ on our development efforts; we would encourage all States which have not as yet done so, to sign and ratify the ATT so that it may come into force at the earliest opportunity.”

United Kingdom

“Alone we can take small steps forward, but together we can take giant leaps. That much was clear earlier this year when we signed the world's first Arms Trade Treaty to better regulate the global sale of weapons. The United Kingdom is proud of the role we played in delivering it and we urge any countries who have not signed to do so. This treaty reminds us that, with enough political will, we can come together and do the previously unthinkable. And that should embolden us to do more.”

Concerns with the use force and humanitarian intervention

Antigua and Barbuda

“War or even the threat of war should be an absolute last resort and should have the full support of the international community at all times. Unilateral prescriptions will never solve a problem.”

Austria

“International law and the rule of law are the foundations of the international system. Austria strongly believes that only an international system based on the rule of law can lead to lasting peace, security, economic development and social progress. This obviously is true in particular for the use of force which may only be applied in self-defense or if authorized by the UN Security Council.”

Brazil

“Whatever the case, we repudiate unilateral interventions contrary to International Law, without Security Council authorization, which would only worsen the political instability of the region and increase human suffering.”

Chad

“Our firm belief is that the solution to all these crises we have listed cannot be military. A durable and definitive solution to these evils...involves a constant struggle against poverty, marginalization and youth unemployment. It also requires the establishment of a constructive dialogue between the forces of the nation on the one hand, and the ongoing dialogue between different cultures and religions on the other.”

Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

“Unjust intervention, pressure and use of force, what is unfolding in Syria in the form of infringements of its sovereignty and territorial integrity further breaching peace and stability, should not be allowed in any case...”

Equatorial Guinea

“Internationally, we are very concerned about the negative effects of the humanitarian interventions of the United Nations, that far from guarantee the human rights and welfare of the peoples concerned, are oriented more to impose political systems, democracy and undeclared

interests, totally ignoring the intangible principle of national sovereignty and the dignity of peoples.....We refer to the use of force and embargos that always cost great sacrifices to the people and deprive them of their rudimentary rights. This was not the purpose of the creation of the United Nations.”

The Gambia

“My delegation strongly condemns the application of unilateral and degrading coercive measures as a means of settling disputes. Such measures have an adverse impact on the lives of innocent people who lack any means of defending their legitimate sovereignty in the face of massive military might.”

Guinea-Bissau

“In Egypt and in ravaged Syria, we hope that dialogue and diplomacy prevail over force, so that the sacrifice of so many human lives may be avoided.”

Guyana

“It is in this regard that I wish to view the situation in the Middle East. At the moment, Syria is at the centre of our collective concern. The war in that sister nation has taken thousands of innocent lives. It is an illusion to believe that military intervention will bring peace to that country.”

Iran

“Coercive economic and military policies and practices geared to the maintenance and preservation of old superiorities and dominations have been pursued in a conceptual mindset that negates peace, security, human dignity, and exalted human ideals.”

Iraq

“Proceeding from the above, Iraq continues to call in its initiatives for a peaceful solution to each and every land where the smell of death, gunpowder, witness the scenes of destruction and bloodshed prevail, because the logic of force cannot produce peace nor can a death instrument or a war bring about security or create development or growth.”

Russian Federation

“Recently, a common argument has been increasingly used to prove that the threat or use of force directly

prohibited by the UN Charter is nearly the most effective method to address international problems, including settlement of national domestic conflicts. There are attempts to extrapolate such an approach also to the situation in Syria. This happens despite the fact that all the experience of such interventions with the use of force in the recent years has proven that they are ineffective, meaningless and destructive.”

State of Palestine

“Further, while we condemned the crime of the use of chemical weapons in Syria, we have affirmed our rejection of a military solution and the need to find a peaceful political solution to fulfill the aspirations of the Syrian people.”

Syria

“Instead of settling regional and international conflicts by peaceful means, some known countries continued pursuing aggressive policies against certain nations. Political hypocrisy increased to intervene in the domestic affairs of states under the pretext of Humanitarian Intervention or the **Responsibility to Protect**; and when those aggressive policies did not prove beneficial for some countries, like my Own country, Syria, these well-known states revealed their true face, and threatened with blatant military aggression outside the mandate Security Council, and certainly away from any international consensus. This comes as those same countries imposed immoral, illegal and unilateral coercive measures...”

Turkmenistan

“As a matter of principle we reject use of military force as a tool of foreign policy and international relations. Our country is convinced that today solutions based on the use of force are doomed to fail; they do not eliminate sources and causes of conflicts and do not create conditions for adequate responses to many issues emerging at the end of the active phase of military actions.”

Venezuela

“How happy we would be to be here if we were really in a place where we make real the noble ideals enshrined in the United Nations Charter! The Charter talks about ‘preserving future generations from the scourge of war’ but the truth is that here, various military interventions have been decided on or have been allowed and they have engulfed entire countries or regions of the world in long wars and instability. Our Security Council has been taken hostage by the hawks of war; when they can, they justify their attacks from here, and when not they simply bang on the table and do whatever they want which is what they are doing when they declare future bombings in the Syrian Arab Republic...Article II, paragraph 4 of the United Nations Charter says that ‘all Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state,’ and yet, the President of the United States, [...] is threatening to bomb this or that country if it does not comply with unilateral demands, which can even include removing a government which the U.S. government does not like.”