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General Assembly
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Informal meeting on the situation in Syria

Swiss Statement

presented by
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Permanent Representative

Permanent Mission of Switzerland
to the United Nations

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Mr. President,

I would like to thank you for having convened this informal meeting. In view of the fact that the General Assembly is at the origin of the mandate entrusted to Kofi Annan, this meeting is particularly welcome at such a crucial moment in the implementation of his Plan.

Switzerland calls upon the Government of Syria as well as the opposition to fully respect the Kofi Annan Plan. It is imperative that all elements of this Plan be implemented, so as to put an end to the escalation of violence and to the rise of extremism. For this, it is essential that the entire international community work together as one. We are counting on the regional actors in particular to vigorously support the implementation of the Annan Plan in word and deed.

Switzerland condemns in the strongest possible terms all of the serious violations of international law to which the civilian population has fallen victim all too often. It therefore calls upon all of the actors in Syria to bring an immediate halt to the use of violence and to respect their obligations under international law.

It reiterates that all alleged violations of international law must be subject to an investigation to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice. In this context, Switzerland calls upon the Syrian authorities to allow the Independent Commission of Inquiry mandated by the Human Rights Council to fully accomplish its mission.

Furthermore, whoever the perpetrators of the crimes committed in Syria may be, all must be aware that they will be held accountable for their acts before the law. Consequently, Switzerland requests that the Security Council refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court, which is the suitable international institution for prosecuting and judging the presumed authors of crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Mr. Kofi Annan, Switzerland fully supports you at this critical moment for Syria and the international community.

Thank you.