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General Assembly  
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## **Situation in Syria**

Swiss Statement

presented by  
H.E. Mr. Paul Seger  
Permanent Representative

Permanent Mission of Switzerland  
to the United Nations

New York, 13 February 2012

Mr. President,

Switzerland welcomes the initiative you have taken in convoking this meeting. Since the Human Rights Council's 18<sup>th</sup> Special Session on the Human Rights Situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, the spiral of violence in the country has been accelerating at a disturbing pace. The principal victims are to be found among the civilian population which counts an increasing number of deaths each day. This loss of life is as deplorable as it is unacceptable.

I would like to limit myself to four points:

First of all, Switzerland strongly condemns the violations of human rights that are taking place in Syria. Switzerland calls upon the Syrian authorities to immediately end the violence and repression against the civilian population. Access to the victims of this violence, first and foremost by medical personnel, must be guaranteed in any and all circumstances. Switzerland therefore demands that the Syrian authorities allow all humanitarian actors to carry out their work without interference.

Secondly, it is imperative that this unacceptable situation remain on the agenda of all the competent bodies of the United Nations. It is the international community's duty to react when confronted with such serious violations of human rights. The UN system can only act effectively if its various bodies are committed to taking action according to the responsibilities entrusted upon them, and cooperate in a satisfactory manner. Switzerland regrets that such complementarily, indeed an indispensable element, is lacking in the current context.

In view of the gross violations of human rights that have been committed, coupled with the unwillingness of the Syrian authorities to prosecute the perpetrators, Switzerland deems it necessary for the Security Council to act immediately in referring the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.

Furthermore, Switzerland endorses the actions of the Human Rights Council in connection with the situation in Syria. We call upon the Syrian government to cooperate to the fullest extent with the Human Rights Council, in particular with its Independent Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, and with the future Special Rapporteur. Switzerland thanks the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and its services for their commitment in this context, and calls upon the Syrian authorities to cooperate with them.

Lastly, Switzerland hails the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as those undertaken by the Arab League, aimed at bringing to an end the ruthless repression taking place in Syria. A resolution to the on-going crisis in Syria must inevitably unfold by way of a sincere and inclusive dialogue whose objective must be the respect for and the guarantee of the human rights of the Syrian population.

Mr. President,

Switzerland is ready to lend its full support to the efforts undertaken.

Thank you.