

Botswana Statement during the Interactive Dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic during the 20th Session of the HRC

27th June 2012

1. Madam President, The Botswana delegation associates itself with the statement read by the Maldives on behalf of a group of concerned States on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, and would like to emphasise a few points from a national perspective.
2. Botswana notes, with great concern, the update of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic. We also welcome the briefing by the Deputy Joint Special Envoy for Syria.
3. It has been emphasised on several occasions that the Government of Syria has the primary responsibility to protect the people of Syria. It is now more evident that the Government is failing to live up to this responsibility.
4. What is even more appalling is the continuing evidence that the Government itself may be responsible for the horrific massacres of the people of Syria.
5. Botswana has consistently and persistently condemned the human rights violations in Syria. As such, we will continue to lend our voice, and support, to all international efforts to bring pressure

to bear on those responsible for the atrocities. Those responsible should realise that no amount of terror on the Syrian people can be condoned.

6. We will therefore continue to support recommendations to the Security Council to consider referring the Syrian situation to the International Criminal Court.

7. We also continue to implore our friends in the Security Council to review their position with a view to take heed of the cries of the Syrian people. The Update by the Commission of Inquiry, on the El-Houleh massacre itself should render this recommendation more compelling to Members of the Security Council.

8. We have also noted with concern, the total disregard for the Joint Special Envoys six-point peace plan for Syria, especially the stopping of military assaults on Syrian towns and withdrawal of heavy weapons. We agree with the views that the six-point plan offers the most credible way forward in finding a lasting solution to the Syrian crisis. We therefore strongly call upon all parties to the crisis to implement the six-point plan.

9. Finally, Madam President, we add our voice to support the Commission of Inquiry to continue its work in Syria, especially efforts to identify those responsible for the killings, so that they could be held accountable.

I thank you.