

Security Council Divided

By: Security Council Press
Representative

The Security Council wasted no time in entering heated debate on the issue of regime change in the Middle East and North Africa versus the other topics on their agenda, which included Palestinian statehood, drug trafficking and organized crime, and crisis issues. The Democratic People's Republic of China was noticeably absent.

At the center of the debate was the fact that the topic is regional and discussion would mostly apply to the current situation in Syria.

"Mexico would just like to point out that what the delegate from Lebanon pointed out is true; Syria is the primary concern for regime change in the Middle East and North Africa...As of right now, the United Nations is already heavily vested in the Syrian issue...Attempting to take further action in this committee while Kofi Annan is simply trying to do his job would probably just be throwing more red tape in an issue where he needs complete diplomatic freedom to make the negotiations

necessary to offer some sort of peace agreement," the delegate from Mexico said during his con speech.

The delegate from the United States responded to Mexico's points in her own pro speech.

"The situation in Syria is not necessarily contained. It is not solved, and you know, the humanitarian rights [for the] people are not given back to the people. Then it affects an entire world, not just one Syrian nation. Especially the refugees that have flown from the Syrian country are now largely affecting other areas of the Middle East and Northern Africa. It is not only our most pressing topic as the delegate from Lebanon said, but it is a topic that absolutely cannot be ignored," the delegate from the United States of America said.

Even with the delegate from Turkey striking himself from the pro list, the motion to discuss the topic passed with a vote of seven to five when it went to a vote, meeting the Security Council's current simple majority requirement exactly.

Immediately, the United Kingdom motioned to consider its ally's resolution, resolution 1-1 sponsored by the United States. After brief debate

on the issue, the motion passed with an 8-4 vote.

The Security Council was again divided, with the US, UK, Lebanon, Qatar, and France standing in favor of the resolution and Russia, Mexico, Bosnia, and Gabon opposing it. After much debate, this topic was tabled.

"Russia told us that they would veto anything that mentioned sanctions, basically, in a resolution. So, therefore, we decided that the current resolution on the table [should be tabled]; the United States was very adamant about wanting sanctions and backing their resolution with the way it was. We did, however, get the United States to agree that if we moved to a different resolution, without perhaps mentioning sanctions in it already they could perhaps back that. Russia was very happy to hear that, and so, we tabled it and moved on," the delegate from Gabon said.

With Resolution 1-1 tabled, the delegate from Gabon immediately moved to consider Resolution 1-2.

"The situation with resolution 1-1 was the fact that it concentrated specifically on Syria and that the perambulatory clauses, which are very hard to amend in debate, they only dealt with Syria, and we felt [that they

needed] to address other nations. Resolution 1-2 had, not an incredibly broad aspect, but with certain amendments could be made much more specific. So, we felt that, 'Oh, let's get rid of this incredibly specific one and replace it with something broad,' because it's easier to tighten your focus than extend it," the delegate from Lebanon said.

Delegates are currently working on amending Resolution 1-2 and the initial debate focusing on Syria is still very much alive.