

Syrian Conflict Causes Stalemates

The Security Council began with a PowerPoint to introduce the chair and secretary, review committee rules, and offer help for questions. Then the delegates became acquainted by sharing names, conference experiences, and favorite dog breeds.

After this casual beginning, roll was called and the delegate from Germany called to consider topic three: Syria. The topic was agreed upon, with resolution 3/4 being debated. A short list of speakers was made and exhausted before an unmoderated caucus was called

to discuss amendments to the proposal. Progress stopped when the delegate from Russia refused to "support anything that helps the rebels," while the delegate from France refused to "support anything that helps Assad." The discussion about support for Assad or for the Syrian National Council revealed that any resolution for either party would be vetoed.

Considering the diplomatic stalemate, the Security Council agreed to table resolution 3/4 in favor of resolution 3/3, which focused on humanitarian aid rather than support for the SNC. Debate focused on amendments that the delegate from Germany, the resolution's author,

supported. Free and transparent elections generated the most worry. Many delegates, including Russia and the United States, thought holding democratic elections in wartime would be a poor decision.

Soon afterwards, an amendment striking the clause in question was passed. The Security Council delegates continued discussing the action to try to satisfy the committee and to pass a resolution that aided Syria.

By: Security Council Reporter