

## **The Political Document for the Future of Syria**

Despite the supreme sacrifices of the Syrian peoples in the last six years of the crisis, the situation has not improved; on the contrary, the crisis has expanded and become deeper. This reveals that the crisis is structural and in order to deal with it, there must be some comprehensive and radical solutions. Given that the methods and propositions used so far have not been able to solve the crisis, it would be better to reconsider them and look for new constructive ways.

During the last phase, it has been clear that the depleting war imposed on the Syrian people does not serve the interest of any of the Syrian components regardless to ethnic, religious, and cultural identity. This war results from the regime's unwillingness to endorse a democratic change and insistence on one-party regime. To end the Syrian tragedy, we need a radical change through establishing a democratic system, which ensures the rights of all individuals and components of the Syrian society. What has happened in the last few years proves that we, as Syrians, do not have any other choice but the democratic solution. However, if the Syrian regime or any other political side insisted on restoring the nation-state or imposing its own identity, this would help divide Syria because the unity based on democracy, freedom and equality can protect Syrian sovereignty and strengthen its social structure. However, forced unity based on national, religious and sectarian fanaticism would lead Syria to collapse.

Taking this fact into consideration and given the cultural, national, and social richness of the Syrian society, it is clear that the pluralistic democratic federal system based on the notion of the democratic nation is the best system to unify Syrians while restoring the nation-state will lead to further divisions in our social structure.

There is an agreement among all the democratic political sides regarding the importance of democratic transformation in Syria. But we need to make this possible by adopting a democratic constitution. We, the constituent assembly of the democratic federalism in northern Syria, see that the Syrian crisis can be solved through rebuilding the republic based on a democratic constitution. We have sought to hold a dialogue with all Syrian political parties to solve our problems and decide our future. However, we have been marginalized and excluded from all the meetings that have taken place so far. We would like to assert that since the beginning we have moved through democratic national agendas believing that, as Syrians, we can solve our own problems. Unfortunately, neither the regime nor the internal and external opposition have showed any will to hold a dialogue with us. Although they have not provided any resolution project, they have not accepted our options too, which increased futility. Thus, we do not have any other choice but to organize the areas liberated from the terrorists democratically to protect our region from all kinds of attacks. We also aim to create an alternative so that the northern parts of Syria would become a model for resolution. It is worth mentioning that the democratic federal project to be implemented is part and parcel of other federalisms we think important to be established in the future. Since the objective and subjective conditions are not met to establish a democratic constitution for all Syria in the present time, we, in the liberated areas, are going to organize our lives according to this social contract approved by all the components living in northern Syria till the establishment of a democratic constitution, which recognizes the rights of all Syrians.

We consider the main principles that should form the general framework of the Syrian democratic constitution are:

### **1. The Democratic Nation**

The democratic nation consists of individuals who share equal rights and freedoms. It also consists of different cultures, religions, and ethnicities, based on individual and group rights.

### **2. A State for All**

It is clear that we, as Syrians, need a new notion for a State, a State for all. This means that the State should consist of people with different languages, ethnicities, and religions. This notion strengthens the integrity and coexistence and asserts the unity of the Syrian society and soil, while mono-ethnic State marginalizes the majority of the people, which leads to divisions and fragmentations. Fascism produces people who follow the same styles of thinking while pluralism represents richness in nature and society. Thus, it is better to have a national spirit based on relation to the land, ecology, progress, but not in a fascist and chauvinistic way.

### **3. The Democratic Federal Republic**

Viewing the republic as a nation-state is an influential factor of marginalization as it is the strict form of the republic. It is impossible to have a democratic nation-state. The optimal system for a republic should be democratic. The nation-state eliminates the democratic characteristics of societies as is the case with the previous period.

If we take the cultural diversity in Syria into account, we will find out that the democratic solution is compatible with the Syrian democratic federal republic model. What is really important here is to establish a Syrian democratic federal republic, which unifies all federations. To solve the critical issues in Syria, it is important for the system and State not to be linked to an ideology, ethnicity, or religion. Thus, it is more convenient to formulate a legal definition of the Syrian democratic federal republic as a democratic legal system for all the people. By doing so, the principle of the democratic nation and secularism will be embodied in the definition above. Describing Syria as "The Syrian Democratic Federal Republic" without any reference to ethnic, racial, or religious terms would be more comprehensive and integral.

### **4. The Democratic Constitution**

To lay the foundation of the democratic principles, they must be based on a constitution which truly represents all the components of the society so that their rights can always be protected. This will pave the way for the social institutions and segments to organize and develop themselves and take their natural role in society, particularly women and youth. The democratic constitution is considered a tool that helps solve the problems of the State. It will ensure the unity of federations in a mutual State.

## **5. Self-Defense**

Self-defense is a very important issue because it protects the social and cultural identities of the Syrian peoples. It has been proved historically that the communities which have not been able to defend themselves have been exposed to all kinds of extermination. Thus, we must ensure self-defense for all communities and individuals in Syria. Moreover, the establishment of sufficient self-defense system is crucial for a free, equal and fair life.

## **6. Women's freedom**

Women's freedom is one of the most important issues in the Syrian communities. One of the main reasons for retardation in our societies is the marginalization and elimination of women's role in the process of building societies. To get rid of the undemocratic and unfair practices against women, there must be some constitutional articles to ensure equality between men and women in all aspects of life. Thus, the active participation of women in the process of drafting a new constitution in Syria is considered vital.

## **7. Economy**

We must establish an economic policy to protect the society and environment against the destructive effects of monopolized policy, which dominates the economy. Therefore, there is a dire need for an economic policy which fulfills the society needs and ensures a fair distribution of Syrian wealth. Furthermore, we must get rid of unemployment, which has been increasing in our societies, so that every individual should have a job regardless to his/her gender, ethnic, or religious identity.

## **8. Language and Culture**

Using the mother tongue and culture in the field of education, art, science, and religion is considered one of the basic human rights. Thus, we must ensure education in the mother tongue in the new constitution for Kurds, Arabs, Syriacs, Assyrians, Armenians, Turkmen, and Chechens. This will strengthen the social and cultural structure of the Syrian communities and will pave the way for a voluntary unity among all components.

According to what has been mentioned above, we, as constituent assembly of the federalism in northern Syria, will do our best to develop a democratic solution which covers all Syria. We assert to the Syrian general opinion that we are ready for negotiation and dialogue with all Syrian parties to establish a democratic system, which ensures peace and stability for all Syrians.

**The Constituent Assembly of the Democratic Federalism of Northern Syria  
29/12/2016**