

RELEASE IN FULL

STATEMENT DRAFTED FOR PRESIDENT'S CONSIDERATION, 3
JULY 2011

"Now that the emergency law has been lifted, the time has come to change our constitutional arrangements, with a new constitution that implements the best of what we now have, and ensures that new structures and arrangements are put in place for a new era of peace, democracy, equality, separation of powers, rule of law, pluralism, freedom of expression and the dignity of every Syrian citizen. These fundamental principles, rights and freedoms should not only be proclaimed on paper, but should be fully implemented in practice.

I am now establishing an independent Commission, composed of 9 experts, to draft a new constitution containing the above-mentioned principles. The Commission will work in a transparent and open manner, and has the right to consult with whomever it will. The draft Constitution will be submitted to a national referendum as soon as possible.

The new Constitution will adopt the following guidelines:

- 1) The introduction of a competitive, multi-party political system.*
- 2) Enforcement of the principles of the separation of powers between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.*
- 3) Redistribution of power in favour of a more representative system of government.*
- 4) Strengthening the independence of the judicial system, including the Supreme Judicial Council and the Supreme Constitutional Court, to uphold the rights and freedoms of the people."*

