

Policy Statement

Name: Lara Blasoni

Delegation: South Africa

Security Council

Question of: *The Turkish offence in Syria*

In the last decades the middle eastern regions have been the scenarios of critical situations which have often had global impact and even caused humanitarian emergencies. Recently, a series of events worsened a situation of great instability, inevitably effecting the safety of people.

It is clear that Turkey's actions have gone too far as they have violated Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity. However, South Africa understands the difficult position of Turkey and its concerns on the instability of the border zone with Syria. We must also remember that the threat of ISIS could still come back if the jihadist detainees were to escape. This would happen if the Kurds supervising the prisons had to leave their positions to contrast Turkish attack. Therefore, we believe the border area between Turkey and Syria, including the buffer zone, must be always kept under control.

South Africa is concerned about the safety of civilians and particularly the targeted minorities. We believe that efforts should be made to stop racial conflicts, since they were the cause of great suffering in our country and only had negative impact on it. Therefore, we would like to emphasize that, in the agreement of October 17 2019, the US and Turkey committed to safeguarding minorities. South Africa believes that jihadist detainees must be strictly supervised, as well as the Turkish-Syrian border, in order to prevent further open conflict. Concluding, South Africa hopes that the safety and basic rights of civilians will be considered a priority during the debate and wishes to give its contribution to eventual solutions.

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Question of: *The diffusion of crypto currencies.*

South Africa has been recognized as the leading market of cryptocurrency in Africa. At present, there are no specific laws or regulations governing the use or trading of cryptocurrencies in the country, however some banks have taken a stand.

Firstly, the South African Reserve Bank issued a position paper on virtual currencies, declaring that, only the SARB may issue legal tender and since cryptocurrencies are not legal tender in South Africa, they can be refused as means of payment. The SARB is also planning to introduce new rules, restricting the amount of local currency that can be sent outside South Africa. Secondly, the First National Bank decided not to provide services to crypto-related companies any longer. Moreover, The South Africa Revenue Service recently released a draft cryptocurrency tax legislation, under which digital currencies will be subjected to income tax. However, cryptocurrency transactions will be exempted from value-added tax.

Although South Africa's crypto space is not highly regulated, there are plans by authorities in the country to begin robust crypto tracking modalities. We are in fact concerned with the many risks linked to the market of cryptocurrencies that have been identified. Concluding, South Africa does not currently intend to ban the buying, selling or holding of crypto assets, or to ban these for payments. However, we do believe that the cryptocurrency market should be regulated and kept under observation. The delegation of South Africa is open to dialog and cooperation in order to shed light on the matter and find effective policies to deal with it.