



Security Council briefing on the situation in Libya, 27 February 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Vanessa Frazier
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

[I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the Representative of Malta]

I thank Special Representative Bathily for his briefing and I welcome the participation of the Libyan Permanent Representative in our meeting today.

The situation in Libya is one that continues to warrant the international community's focus and support, and it remains equally crucial for the international community to speak and act with one voice.

Libya continues to find itself at a stagnant political impasse and we remain concerned that the situation in Libya is still marked by political polarisation.

We are encouraged by the Special Representative's inclusive efforts, and his consultations with a broad range of actors, to address this stalemate. We note the Special Representative's recent message that there is a growing convergence of opinion among Libyan actors regarding the holding of elections this year.

We strongly support his work, including his commitment to establish a High-Level Steering Panel for Libya, and his calls for a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process, under UN auspices. We reiterate that Libyan people



have the right to choose their own leadership through free, fair, and inclusive elections that take place within the current year.

Progress towards agreement on a legal and constitutional basis for such elections is paramount.

We call on all parties to engage with the Special Representative constructively and in good faith to overcome their political and institutional divisions to bring much-needed stability to the country. In doing so, human rights must also be protected in Libya.

Malta also emphasises the importance of an inclusive political process that allows for the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women, civil society organisations, and youth.

One consequence of the continued political uncertainty is that the security situation remains fragile. While the ceasefire continues to hold, and the continued work of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission plays a crucial role in this, violent clashes persist. All Libyan actors have a responsibility to refrain from escalatory actions and prioritise the protection of civilians.

Equally concerning is the continued presence of foreign fighters, foreign forces, and mercenaries in Libya. This continues to pose a serious challenge to the safety and security of Libyans and undermines efforts to unify the country's security and military institutions. Their full withdrawal should be prioritised in any political process.



On this note, we welcome the 5+5 Joint Military Commission's approval, in conjunction with liaison committees from Libya, Sudan and Niger, to establish an integrated mechanism for joint coordination and data exchange to facilitate the full withdrawal of mercenaries and foreign fighters from Libya. This is an additional important step toward achieving stability and fostering a favourable climate for the political process.

Such stability is further undermined by the proliferation of weapons under the control of various State and non-State actors. We underline the need for the full implementation of the arms embargo in line with relevant Security Council resolutions. In this context, we also emphasise the role of Operation IRINI.

On the socio-economic front, large segments of the Libyan population continue to face increasingly difficult living conditions.

On this note, we welcome the recent convening of the Economic Working Group of the International Follow-up Committee on Libya and its efforts to make progress towards the reunification and reform of the Central Bank of Libya. A unified central bank will allow for the consolidation of monetary policy, consistent government funding, and an increase in direct foreign investment.



Transparent and accountable public finances, coupled with equitable management of national resources, are measures towards ameliorating the economic situation for all the people of Libya.

I conclude by reiterating Malta's support for all efforts that seek to secure a peaceful, stable, and prosperous present and future, for all Libyans. We can all do our bit to help Libya along the path to develop its full potential both for the benefit and well-being of its people and for the benefit of stability in the region as a whole.