



Security Council briefing on the situation in Libya, 18 April 2023

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

I thank Special Representative Bathily for his briefing, the chair of the 1970 Committee for his presentation and I welcome the participation of our colleague, 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. Despite the present calm, we remain concerned about its fragility.

We are encouraged by the Special Representative's inclusive efforts, and his consultations with a broad range of actors, to address the political stalemate.

Malta supports the High-Level Panel for Elections proposed by the Special Representative aimed at generating the necessary impetus and consensus to overcome the political impasse in Libya. We continue to urge all Libyan parties and key stakeholders to engage fully, constructively, transparently, and in a spirit of compromise with the SRSG.

We take positive note of the decision taken by the House of Representatives and the High State Council to task a joint '6+6' Committee to finalise the constitutional and legislative framework for the elections.



It is important that such efforts are complimentary and mutually supportive, and share the common objective of establishing the legal and political consensus needed to conduct free, fair, transparent, inclusive, and secure elections.

Malta also emphasises the importance of gender equality and ensuring the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in all political processes. Civil society organisations and youth also have an important role to play.

We regret the SRSB informing us that no women form part of the 6+6 Committee. We urge that he acts expeditiously towards remedying this.

It also remains crucial for the international community to provide the necessary assistance and political support to the UN and to the Libyan authorities for the holding of such elections.

The continued political uncertainty continues to give rise to a fragile and tense security situation.

The 5+5 Joint Military Commission plays a critical role in seeking to improve this situation in Libya. In this vein, we welcome the organisation of recent meetings of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission and military and security commanders from across the country. Such meetings are essential to progress towards the demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration of armed groups.



We are equally concerned by the continued presence of foreign fighters, foreign forces, and mercenaries in Libya. Their full withdrawal should be prioritised. In this regard, we welcome the continued work by the 5+5 Joint Military Commission, in conjunction with liaison committees from Libya, Sudan, and Niger to this goal.

We agree with SRSG Bathily that their withdrawal must be efficiently coordinated so to as avoid ancillary problems related to this withdrawal.

Stability in Libya is further undermined by the proliferation of weapons under the control of various State and non-State actors. Malta strongly believes in the full and rigorous implementation of 1970 sanctions and in the full compliance by all Member States with the arms embargo.

In this context, we emphasise the role of Operation IRINI. Malta underscores the importance of supporting further efforts to enhance Libya's capacity to ensure its security and stability. We also remind that those who obstruct the political process, including by providing support for armed groups in Libya, may be subject to UN sanctions.

As the findings of the Fact-Finding Mission on Libya illustrate, the human rights situation in Libya is a cause of deep concern.

We are alarmed by reports of intimidation, torture, and sexual assaults of women human rights defenders, and welcome the High National Elections Commission's efforts to track online violence against women.



We stress that human rights must be protected in Libya and applied to all without distinction.

The continued shrinking of the civic space in Libya is of equal concern. We call on all Libyan actors to promote freedom of expression , opinion, and association and peaceful assembly.

I conclude by reiterating Malta's support for all efforts that seek to secure an inclusive, peaceful, stable, and prosperous present and future, for all Libyans. We call upon all regional and international players to speak and act with one voice in advancing such a goal.

I thank you.