



Security Council briefing on the Situation in Libya, 22 August 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt
Chargé d'Affaires of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President.

I thank Special Representative Bathily for his briefing and Ms Al Jerbi for her insightful remarks. I also welcome the participation of the Permanent Representative of Libya.

President

We continue to observe a prolonged political impasse in Libya. This gives rise to a tense security situation, which can quickly escalate in violent clashes as we recently witnessed.

This underlines the need for the international community to be unified and supportive of efforts to advance peace and stability in the country. Elections are necessary to find a sustainable and inclusive political solution.

On the political front, we continue to urge all Libyan parties and key stakeholders to engage fully, constructively, transparently, and in a spirit of compromise with the SRSG.



Malta will continue to support the SRSG's efforts to engage in inclusive consultations with a broad range of actors and to facilitate discussions between such actors.

This is the only pathway to advancing a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process, under UN auspices, with the necessary political consensus and legal framework to conduct free, fair, transparent, inclusive, and secure elections.

We reiterate the right of the Libya people to choose their own leadership through such elections and to see their democratic aspirations realised. In this context, we emphasize the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women, in all political processes and electoral reforms, as well as their safe participation in elections.

President

The recent clashes in Tripoli, as well as recent incidents in Zawiyah, underscore the fragile security situation. We continue to call for dialogue, de-escalation and the legal responsibility to protect civilians.

Structural threats to Libya's security continue to be present, posing threats to civilians in Libya – including children. In this context, we welcome that UNICEF will conduct a Multiple Indicator Cluster survey to increase data and analysis on women and children in the country. We hope that this will



enhance Libya's capacity for child rights monitoring and effective child protection policies.

We are concerned at the continued presence of foreign fighters, foreign forces, and mercenaries, whose full withdrawal should be prioritised.

Equally concerning is the proliferation of weapons under the control of various State and non-State actors. Full compliance with the arms embargo, and the broader 1970 sanctions framework, is essential. We believe that the assets freeze is meant to exist for the benefit of Libya and its people, and that Libyan funds held abroad must be declared and frozen, for eventual repatriation.

The continued work of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission, and other measures that seek to stabilise the security situation require our full support. This includes the role of Operation IRINI and the holding of the first in-person plenary meetings in Libya of the security working group of the Berlin Process International Follow-up Committee.

President

We welcome the announced finalization of the reunification of the two branches of the Central Bank of Libya. We hope that this will lead to the unification of political and military institutions.



We also welcome the establishment and recent meetings of a Financial Oversight Committee to address issues of transparency in the spending of public funds and to ensure the fair distribution of national resources is a positive step. We hope this supports efforts to address the difficult socio-economic conditions facing large segments of the Libyan population.

President,

From the human rights perspective, we regret to note the decreased space for civil society in Libya. The recent restrictive measures on fundamental freedoms and rights, including on women's freedom of movement, run counter to the goal of inclusive elections and national reconciliation in which women, youth and civil society have a pivotal role to play.

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.

I thank you.