



Security Council briefing on UNSMIL, 15 February 2024

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

Thank you, President, and I thank Special Representative Bathily for his briefing. I also welcome the briefing of the Chair of the 1970 Sanctions Committee and the participation of the Permanent Representative of Libya.

Malta supports all efforts that seek to advance a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process under UN auspices. Overcoming Libya's ongoing political paralysis, and conducting free, fair, transparent, inclusive, and secure elections, requires compromise and political consensus.

The commencement of the High National Election Commission's work in organising municipal council elections is a positive development. We stress the need to support this process, especially through the allocation of the necessary funding. We look forward to similar developments at the national level.



THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UN NEW YORK



Malta
2023-2024

UNITED NATIONS
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In this vein, the stated readiness of the Electoral Commission to start the preparations of the national electoral process is an opportunity that must be seized by Libyan actors.

We reiterate the right of the Libya people to choose their own leadership through such elections and to see their democratic aspirations realised.

Malta stresses that any such political process must ensure the full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation of women as voters, candidates, and observers. It must equally include the views of all Libyan stakeholders, and facilitate the active, meaningful, and inclusive participation of young persons and civil society.

The international community's continued focus and support of these efforts to advance Libya's political process remains crucial.

To this end, we reiterate our steadfast support to the SRSG. His work to facilitate inclusive discussions among the main stakeholders constitutes a reasonable and promising approach to address the remaining divergences.



Nonetheless, the ultimate responsibility lies with the key Libyan stakeholders. They are the ones who must act in the national interest, constructively engage with this initiative, and work towards progress.

It is equally important that any regional efforts or initiatives run complimentary to the efforts of the UN-process.

President

Structural threats to Libya's security, including the fragile political environment, remain present, and the situation remains volatile. This poses threats to civilians in Libya. We remind all parties of their obligations under international law to ensure the protection of civilians and to safeguard their human rights.

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



Equally worrying 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 continue to be identified, frozen, and declared for eventual repatriation. The assets freeze truly could be a signal of hope for the future of the Libyan State and its people.

We also express apprehension about the potential destabilising effects of events in the region, including in the Sahel, on Libya.

The continued work of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission, and other measures that seek to stabilise the security situation, require our full support.

President



We are concerned that Libya's political uncertainty may impact the reconstruction and recovery efforts that are needed following the catastrophic flooding in eastern Libya last September. All Libyan actors need to faithfully engage and implement the recommendations and assessments contained in the Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment Report published last month. The most effective way to achieve this is through coordinating these ongoing efforts through a transparent, central, and national mechanism.

I thank you.