



Security Council briefing on UNSMIL, 16 April 2024

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

I will now make a statement in my national capacity.

I thank Special Representative Bathily and the Chair of the 1970 Sanctions Committee for their briefings. I also welcome the participation of the Permanent Representative of Libya.

Libya continues to suffer from a state of political paralysis that prevents Libyan citizens from being able to choose their own leaders.

We continue to be supportive of all efforts that seek to advance a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process under UN auspices. Overcoming the impasse, and conducting free, fair, transparent, inclusive, and secure elections, requires compromise and political consensus.



To this end, we underline our steadfast support to the SRSG and his efforts to facilitate inclusive dialogue towards this common goal. At a time of continued paralysis, reiterating our collective support for the SRSG's efforts remains key.

The key Libyan stakeholders must be guided by the overarching national interest, and constructively engage with this initiative, including in terms of conditioning their participation in the initiative on certain preconditions.

It is fundamental that any regional efforts or initiatives run complimentary, and do not undermine, the efforts of the UN-process.

We equally underline the need that the Libyan authorities support the High National Elections Commission in organising municipal elections this year. The Commission must be provided with the necessary funding and resources in a timely manner.



Malta stresses that any such political process must also 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.

Such a whole-of-society approach must also be mirrored on the national reconciliation front. We hope that the efforts to hold a national reconciliation conference are successful, and commend the efforts of the African Union in achieving this. This is an important milestone that provides opportunity for broader political agreement while simultaneously advancing peace and stability across Libya.

The fragile political environment creates a precarious security context, where tensions and sporadic clashes continue to occur. Recent armed clashes in Tripoli, and nearby Ras Jdeir, are concerning examples. We also call for the full implementation of the announcement regarding security arrangements in Tripoli post-Ramadan, as this should lead to greater stability.



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

We remind all parties of their obligations under international law to ensure the protection of civilians and to safeguard their human rights.

Libya's insecurity is only worsened by the continued presence of foreign fighters, foreign forces, and mercenaries, whose full withdrawal should be prioritised, and the proliferation of weapons under the control of various State and non-State actors.

This only underlines the enduring importance of implementing the Libyan arms embargo, and the crucial role played by Operation IRINI in this regard. We look forward to renewing the Security Council resolution providing these authorisations by the end of May.



While discussing the sanctions regime, we stress our belief that the assets freeze is meant to exist for the benefit of Libya and its people. Libyan funds held abroad must continue to be identified, frozen, and declared for eventual repatriation.

We strongly support UNSMIL's and UNICEF's work on child protection. In this context, we welcome the commitment of the Ministry of Defence of the Government of national Unity to develop new laws to protect children, and to criminalise the recruitment and use of children, and encourage the authorities to swiftly adopt and implement these laws.

I conclude by reiterating Malta's support for all efforts seeking a unified Libya. This is the only way to ensure Libya advances on the path to long-term stability and prosperity for all its citizens.

I thank you.