



Security Council briefing on UNSMIL, 19 June 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 also thank Deputy SRSG Koury for her briefings. I also welcome the representative of Libya to our meeting.

President

It is now over three years since Libyan leaders agreed to hold Parliamentary and Presidential elections in December 2021.

Regrettably, we remain long removed from this, and the unsustainable political paralysis persists in Libya. We continue to be supportive of all efforts that seek to advance a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process under UN auspices.

We welcome UNSMIL's proactive engagement with the main Libyan stakeholders and regional stakeholders.



On this note, we reiterate our full support to UNSMIL, its mandate and activities, and its acting leadership. The international community must continue supporting this process, and equally ensure that regional initiatives do not undermine the UN's efforts.

We look forward to addressing the current leadership gap within UNSMIL, as we fear a prolonged gap will only solidify the status quo.

In this vein, we welcome the commencement of the voter registration process for the upcoming municipal council elections. It is fundamental that the Libyan authorities support, and provide the High National Elections Commission with the necessary funding and resources, to successfully hold such elections. We are hopeful that the people of Libya who exercise their right to elect leaders of their municipalities will be similarly empowered to do so at the national level.



Malta stresses that any 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.

We also urge the importance of providing a safe environment for civil society organizations to work freely and to protect them from threats and reprisals.

On this International day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, we also urge the adoption of legislation specifically addressing violence against women and girls.

President

Structural threats to Libya's security remain present. These threats include:

- The volatile political situation;



- 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.

The work of all measures that seek to stabilise the security situation, including through the implementation of the Libyan arms embargo, require our full support.

This includes the ongoing work of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission and Operation IRINI. To this end, we welcome the Security Council's adoption of resolution 2733, renewing the relevant authorisations and measures to implement the Libyan arms embargo for another year.

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 and fully safeguarded for eventual repatriation.



I conclude, President, by reiterating the right of the Libya people to choose their own leadership through elections and to see their democratic aspirations realised.

The ultimate responsibility in realising this lies the key Libyan stakeholders. They are the ones who must act in the national interest and work towards progress.

I thank you.