



Security Council briefing on UNSMIL, 16 December 2024

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

Thank you President,

I also thank Deputy Special Representative Koury, Mr Omar, and Ambassador Yamakazi of Japan, in his capacity as Chair of the 1970 Sanctions Committee, for their briefings. Since this is Ambassador Yamakazi's final briefing, I wish to take the opportunity to thank him and his team for their tireless work as Chair of the 1970 Committee for the past two years.

Malta remains deeply committed to advancing a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process under the UN auspices. This remains the only pathway for Libya to prosper.

We are encouraged by certain developments that demonstrate the willingness and ability of some Libyan parties to overcome their political differences.



We welcome the UNSMIL-facilitated agreement seeking to address the institutional crisis of the Central Bank of Libya. The resolution of this crisis must serve as a foundation to address Libya's economic and financial challenges. These include reaching consensus on a unified national budget, ensuring a depoliticised approach to managing Libya's national resources, and strengthening the equitable and transparent disbursement of State funds.

We are similarly encouraged by the successful municipal elections across Libya, and the organisation of such elections by the High National Elections Commission.

This demonstrates the wish of the Libyan people to participate in electoral processes, and must be extended to the national level.

The positive support of UNSMIL in these developments reflects the central and constructive role the Mission can play. Supporting UNSMIL and engaging constructively in the appointment of a new SRSG remains paramount.

President



These positive steps must be contextualised, as political intransigence also persist. The broader situation remains largely at an impasse, with little progress in overcoming some pressing issues.

The ongoing leadership dispute within the High Council of State continues to undermine this institution, and hinders its ability to fulfil its role in line with the Libyan Political Agreement.

Neither can we forget about the lack of agreement between the House of Representatives and the Supreme Court on adjudicating constitutional matters, and the lack of movement in advancing a national reconciliation process.

These too reflect a propensity towards unilateral actions that undermine trust and entrench institutional divides.

To overcome Libya's various divides, all Libyan political actors must engage with each other in a constructive and transparent manner. We fully support Deputy Special Representative Koury in this endeavour to break the political deadlock.



President

Gender equality and ensuring the full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation of women in this process and subsequent national elections is of critical importance.

The political uncertainties have serious ramifications on all aspects of life in Libya.

The security situation remains volatile. Frequent clashes between armed groups often lead to civilian casualties. A unified military and security apparatus is urgently needed.

The presence of foreign fighters, foreign forces, and mercenaries; the proliferation of weapons; and the conflict in Sudan, are additional destabilising factors. Measures seeking to fully implement the Libyan arms embargo, including Operation IRINI, continue to require our full support.



Full compliance with the 1970 sanctions framework remains equally essential. The assets freeze is meant to exist for the benefit of the Libyan people, and Libyan funds held abroad must continue to be safeguarded..

The importance of fostering an enabling environment for civil society, as well as advancing the rights of women and young persons, cannot be overstated. Ensuring freedom of movement, the right to work, and active participation in public life will contribute significantly to Libya's progress. In this regard, UNSMIL's ongoing efforts to promote human rights protections remain invaluable.

President

During our term on the Council, we have strived to ensure that the voices of the Libyan people are heard. Their aspirations for peace, democracy, and stability remain central to our deliberations.

We repeat our call on all Libyan political actors, regional countries, and the international community, to work together and establish the necessary framework for this right to be realised.



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I thank you.