



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations**

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Statement

by

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Permanent Representative

**Briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United
Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)**

Security Council Chamber

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Thank you, Mr. President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines thanks Mr. Ghassan Salamé, SRSG and head of UNSMIL, for his very sobering briefing on the recent developments in Libya. We applaud his unrelenting efforts in seeking to bring a peaceful solution to the Libyan conflict and express our support for UNSMIL. Likewise, my delegation thanks Minister Plenipotentiary Mathias Licharz, who delivered on behalf of the Chair of the Security Council sanctions committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011), concerning Libya, a briefing on the work of the Committee.

Mr. President, we remain deeply troubled by the difficulty in finding a solution to the nine-year long conflict in Libya. Our primary focus has been, continues to be, and will always be, the well-being of the Libyan people. Also, due to the nature of the conflict, consideration must be given to ALL affected neighboring countries as they face serious impacts from the ongoing conflict, from countries in the Sahel to some in Europe.

As we are delivering this statement, the humanitarian situation in Libya continues to deteriorate and hope wanes. The urgency to de-escalate the conflict is resounding.

Last week's Berlin Conference was an opportunity for members of the international community, in particular, a group of concerned countries, to not only send a clear message of support for the Libyan people, but also to add impetus and demonstrate commitment in curbing the incessant violence, particularly the attacks against civilian populations.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes the efforts of the recent Berlin Conference. We acknowledge the tireless efforts of the respective leaders in reaching consensus and we encourage inclusion of ALL neighbors and affected parties in the process. We reiterate the importance of a Libyan-owned and Libyan-led dialogue, including under the auspices of the United Nations. Also, we recognize and encourage all dialogue efforts including those of Moscow, the meeting held in Algiers and the meeting which was held today in the Congo.

We commend the decision by the parties to the conflict to nominate representatives to the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC). The designation of these representatives is a positive sign that the parties are ready to constructively engage. We urge them to commence negotiations in good faith for a permanent ceasefire.

Accordingly, all Member States of our Organization must fully abide by and implement the arms embargo in keeping with S/Res/1970 (2011) and subsequent relevant resolutions. Since 2011, there have been approximately nineteen Security Council resolutions on the situation in Libya, but we all know of reports that the arms embargo has been violated with impunity.

Let us be very clear, the situation in Libya will not be resolved unless Member States entrusted with the responsibility to uphold international law, comply duly with their international obligations.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its stance that there can be no military solution to the Libyan conflict. We condemn profoundly the ongoing violence in Tripoli and reiterate our call for a permanent ceasefire. We take note of the new report of the July 2019 airstrikes in Libya at the Tajoura detention centre and support its recommendations.

Finally, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is cognizant of the momentum garnered in Berlin. The upcoming JMC meeting in Geneva, coupled with dialogue initiatives, particularly within the framework of the African Union and the League of Arab nations are encouraging. It will foolhardy if we do not advance on these platforms.

We, nevertheless, urge careful deliberations and assessment of the situation in Libya as we decide the next steps ever mindful that at the center of this crisis are the Libyan people. The Libyan people need our urgent help.

Thank you!