



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

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Statement

by

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to the United Nations

Open VTC Meeting on the Situation in Libya

United Nations Security Council

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At the outset, I thank Acting SRSG, Ms. Stephanie Williams, for her leadership and tireless efforts in the intra-Libyan dialogue process under the auspices of the United Nations. I also appreciate her briefing and welcome the distinguished Permanent Representative of Libya.

Mr. President,

Approximately a decade following the eruption of violence in Libya, the country continues to be faced with myriad challenges. Recent developments, however, provide reasons to be optimistic, although cautiously.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines notes that the truce in Libya continues to hold following the signing of the Ceasefire Agreement last October, and welcomes the accompanying reduction in civilian casualties. It is critical that the parties comply fully with this Agreement.

We maintain that Libyan sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected. As such, Member States should strictly abide by their international obligations, including adhering to the 1970 arms embargo and subsequent resolutions on Libya.

Politically, we applaud the progress within the Libyan Dialogue Forum (LPDF), including the decision on the selection mechanism for the formation of a new interim executive authority. The Libyan parties' determination, spirit of compromise and consensus on this mechanism, epitomize the resolve required to unite the country. Accordingly, we encourage stakeholders to finalize arrangements within the LPDF in accordance with the political roadmap. We also emphasize the significance of a Libyan-own and Libyan-led dialogue and are hopeful of national elections in December this year.

The participation of women and youth in the LPDF is positive, and indicative of the inclusivity required in political processes. We therefore implore Libyans to continue along this path, mindful of the transformative roles of women and youth.

Mr. President,

The socio-economic and humanitarian situation remains worrying. We appreciate the lifting of the *force majeure* on oil facilities and urge the Libyan authorities to address lingering economic shortcomings. We also support the efforts within the Libyan Economic Dialogue process and the Economic Working Group of the International Follow-up Committee to assist in this regard.

As highlighted in the Secretary General's latest report, an estimated 1.3 million Libyans require humanitarian assistance. The deaths and difficulties that millions face, specifically the groups made most vulnerable, are deeply disturbing. The COVID-19 pandemic has further compounded an already troubling situation. We therefore call on the international community to urgently respond to these difficulties through the Libyan Humanitarian Response Plan.

Additionally, my delegation calls for full respect of international humanitarian and human rights law. There should be no impunity in Libya for the atrocities committed over the years. We reiterate our support for the international Fact-Finding Mission to investigate atrocities and ensure accountability. In this context, we call for investigation into the mass graves in the city of Tarhuna.

We also share the Secretary General's perspectives that unlawful detention remains a driver of the Libyan conflict and urge the authorities to identify and close all illegal detention facilities. Similarly, we acknowledge that Libya remains an unsafe port for migrants and refugees and emphasize the need to ensure their safety.

Mr. President,

The situation in Libya is complex and the peace process is delicate. 2021 is a pivotal year. We encourage all stakeholders, especially key influential States, to inspire ongoing negotiations and protect the peace process.

We reaffirm support for the constructive role of the African Union and anticipate the convocation of the National Reconciliation Conference in accordance with the roadmap adopted by the AU's

High-Level Committee on Libya. We also reiterate our support for the efforts of the European Union, the League of Arab States and neighbouring countries.

Finally, we remain committed in our support for UNSMIL and welcome the new leadership team, including Ján Kubiš, Special Envoy; Raisedon Zenenga, UNSMIL Coordinator; and Georgette Gagnon, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator. We look forward to working with them, as we endeavor collectively to assist Libya in overcoming its obstacles in pursuit of sustainable peace, stability and prosperity.

I thank you.