



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

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Statement

by

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Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations

Open VTC Meeting on the Situation in Libya

United Nations Security Council

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Thank you, Madam President,

I begin by extending sincerest appreciation to Special Envoy Ján Kubiš, for his briefing.

Libya continues to make tangible progress on its path towards restoring peace and stability. The formation of the Government of National Unity (GNU) underscores the importance of dialogue in resolving conflicts and embodies our steadfast conviction that the only viable solution to the crisis is a political one.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its full support for the United Nations multi-track process in Libya and appreciates responsible initiatives of neighboring countries. We also reiterate our support for the Berlin process and maintain that Libya's territorial integrity and sovereignty must be respected.

It is imperative that the resolve reflected in the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) continues during the transitional phase in the lead up towards national elections on December 24th.

The road ahead is difficult and the mandate of the GNU under the leadership of Prime Minister, Abdul Hamid Mohammed Dbeibah, to unite

the country, bring order and stability, ensure national reconciliation, and prepare for elections; is even more arduous, especially in a country that has never had national elections.

As Libya prepares for inclusive, free, fair and transparent elections, we encourage all stakeholders to consolidate the existing momentum and finalize all arrangements. The international community, including the Security Council, the African Union, and the League of Arab States, remains committed to providing the requisite support.

We are disturbed that foreign fighters and mercenaries remain entrenched in Libya, in violation of the October 23, 2020 Ceasefire Agreement, and call for their swift withdrawal and full compliance with the Agreement. We also look forward to the operationalization of the Libyan-own and led comprehensive ceasefire monitoring mechanism.

Equally of grave concern is the incessant violation of the arms embargo. It was never, nor can it ever be acceptable that Security Council resolutions are flagrantly violated. We therefore urge all parties to adhere to their international obligations.

Building a harmonious, democratic, Libyan society requires an all-inclusive approach and it is a significant responsibility that all Libyans should shoulder together. In this context, we commend the GNU for

including five female ministers in the new cabinet and stress that women and children are the cornerstone, if not, the spinal chord of any democratic society.

The GNU ought to be guided by the stipulations outlined in the LPDF roadmap. And, we hope that responsibilities, including ensuring the reunification of all-Libyan institutions, undertaking essential economic reforms, and enabling a comprehensive national reconciliation process to usher in the new Libya, are fulfilled. The African Union has committed to facilitating the latter and we look forward to its constructive role in this regard. Further, this Council should adopt a resolution to accompany all positive developments in Libya.

The human rights and humanitarian situation remains worrisome. It is my delegation's passionate belief that peace, development, security and human rights, are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Impunity therefore must end.

We emphasize the need to bring justice to the victims and reiterate our support for the Fact-Finding Mission to Libya (FFML), including investigations pertaining to the mass graves found in Tarhuna.

Similarly, arbitrary and illegal detention centers remain conflict drivers and must close. We urge the authorities to facilitate safe humanitarian access to refugees and migrants, as well as to respond adequately to the devastating COVID-19 pandemic.

We repeat our views that Libya is an unsafe port for disembarkation of refugees and migrants, and underline the importance of creating the necessary environment to ensure the well-being of vulnerable groups.

In closing, **Madam President**, my delegation encourages Libyans to look to the future with hope - a hope that acknowledges that the pain and anguish of their immediate history would not be washed away overnight, nor on December 24, but one grounded in the belief that all Libyans through an inclusive democratic approach, would decide, shape and build the future to which they aspire.

I thank you.