



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

685 3rd Ave., Suite 1108, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 •

svgmission@gmail.com | <http://svg-un.org>

Statement

by

H.E. Inga Rhonda King

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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Permit me to extend appreciation to Special Envoy, Mr. Ján Kubiš, for his comprehensive briefing and thank H.E. T. S. Tirumurti, Chair of the 1970 Sanctions Committee, on the presentation of the Chair's fortieth report.

I also recognize the presence of our distinguished colleague, H.E. Taher El-Sonni.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its unwavering support for the United Nations multi-track process in Libya and appreciates the efforts of the international community, including the initiatives of neighboring countries and regional organizations.

Mr. President,

Approximately a decade following Libya's descent into turmoil, the country is now on the cusp of new beginnings - presenting the ideal opportunity for all Libyans and the international community to reset relations and facilitate lasting peace, stability and sustainable development.

My delegation welcomes the significant progress highlighted in the latest Secretary General's report (S/2021/451) and extends its support to the Government of National Unity (GNU). We encourage the GNU to fulfil its responsibilities in conformity with the LPDF roadmap. Prioritizing the reunification of the country, undertaking economic reforms, delivering basic services, finalizing preparations for inclusive, free, fair and transparent national elections and inaugurating a comprehensive national reconciliation process, are key for Libya's democratic transformation.

Mr. President,

The transitional government has a very short preparation timeframe for the crucial December 24th elections. We encourage the GNU and relevant stakeholders to expedite all logistical arrangements and resolve constitutional and legal differences to ensure elections are conducted in a conducive environment.

We also applaud the ongoing work of the High National Electoral Commission (HNEC) and UNSMIL's complementary efforts.

Successful elections would pave the path for national reconciliation. We are satisfied with the establishment of the High National Reconciliation Commission and renew our support for the collaboration between the African Union and the United Nations in this regard.

Absolute peace in Libya will not be fulfilled until all parties comply strictly with their international obligations and all conflicts are eradicated. In this context, the importance of strictly adhering to the arms embargo and all relevant resolutions on Libya, including the recently adopted resolutions 2570 and 2571, cannot be overstated.

The deeply entrenched presence of foreign fighters and mercenaries on Libyan soil is unacceptable. We are pleased that the 23rd October Ceasefire Agreement continues to hold and note progress in its implementation.

Nevertheless, we are extremely worried about the scant regard in the call for foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries to depart without delay. We therefore repeat our clarion call for their complete withdrawal. Further, we commend the work of the 5+5 JMC in the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and look forward to the operationalization of the Libyan-own and led comprehensive ceasefire monitoring mechanism.

Non-compliance with security council resolutions and the concomitant security challenges have grave ramifications for Libya, neighbouring countries, the Sahel region and the wider continent. Given Libya's intricate security situation, enhanced cooperation between the GNU, regional organizations and neighbouring countries, particularly in the development of efficacious security sector reform and demobilization, disarmament and reintegration program, is critical.

Beyond the headlines, the human rights and humanitarian situation, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, is troubling. The groups made most vulnerable, particularly migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons also require specific attention.

We urge the authorities to facilitate safe humanitarian access to refugees and migrants, as well as to respond adequately to the pandemic. It is also critical that the international community continue contributing to Libya's 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan.

We underscore our support for the Fact-Finding Mission to Libya (FFML) and its investigation into the mass graves found in Tarhouna and repeat our views that Libya is an unsafe port for disembarkation of refugees and migrants.

Excellencies,

Libyans immediate past has been regrettably laden with suffering. Their resolve and determination, however, with the support of the international community, has brought them to this critical juncture of hope and optimism. It is time, now, for Libyans to reconcile and forge a deeper and more harmonious society to improve markedly the overall quality of their lives, through the Libyan-own and led political process.

In closing, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reiterates its support to continue accompanying our brotherly nation in its pursuit of durable peace, reconciliation, reconstruction and sustainable development.

I thank you.