



**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

Security Council Briefing on the Situation in Libya

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Thank you, Mr. President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines thanks Special Envoy Ján Kubiš, Ms. Asma Khalifa, for their thoughtful briefings.

We also express appreciation to Ambassador Tirumurti, Chair of the 1970 Sanctions Committee for his forty-first periodic report and welcome the distinguished representative of Libya, Ambassador Taher El-Sonni, to today's meeting.

Since our last meeting and the adoption of *S/PRST2021/12*, our sister nation, amidst its many challenges, has made meaningful headway towards restoring peace and stability.

We maintain our unwavering support for the United Nations multitrack process in Libya, particularly UNSMIL's vital role in facilitating the Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process.

Likewise, we laud the very important work of the African Union, the League of Arab States, the European Union and other international partners in advancing the political process and underscore the importance of respecting Libya's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Mr. President,

In approximately three months, Libya is expected to hold critical national parliamentary and presidential elections as set out in the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) roadmap. We note lingering impediments and welcome efforts towards finalizing arrangements on the electoral legal framework. We stress the urgency to clarify the constitutional basis. We emphasize that elections are key components of representative democracies and essential for Libya's democratic transition.

Advances on the security front such as the creation of a new joint force, from both sides of the demarcation lines, comprising the 166 Battalion for Protection and Security and the Tareq Bin Ziyad Brigade, as well as the opening of the Misrata-Sirte Coastal Road, are indeed timely and welcomed.

We are pleased that the Ceasefire Agreement continues to hold but note the reported limited tangible progress in its implementation. We repeat our call for strict compliance, including the overdue and unconditional withdrawal of foreign fighters and mercenaries from Libya, as well as full adherence to the Security Council's arms embargo.

The withdrawal of foreign fighters and mercenaries must be conducted in a supervised and orderly manner, to avoid grave ramifications for the Sahel and wider region. It must also be accompanied by proper planning for disarmament,

demobilization and reintegration (DDR), and security sector reform (SSR). We look forward to a properly coordinated and supervised approach with neighbouring and influential states, to assist in this regard.

Confidence building measures, including the release of former officials, are positive and will augur well for the political process, national reconciliation, unity, peace and stability. The African Union's supportive role, in assisting with the comprehensive national reconciliation process, would also be instrumental.

Mr. President,

Libya's socio-economic, security, humanitarian and human rights situations are closely interlinked, mutually reinforcing, and must be simultaneously addressed to achieve its stability and development. My delegation remains concerned about the human rights situation, especially the challenges facing groups made most vulnerable, specifically refugees and migrants, internally displaced persons, youth, women and girls.

We reiterate our call for their full protection and safety, especially those in detention centers and repeat our persistent message that Libya remains an unsafe port of disembarkation for migrants and refugees. We also echo calls for the swift adoption of the draft law on combatting violence against women and for completion of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

Further, the need to prioritize the unification of Libya's institutions cannot be overstated. We are satisfied with the completion of the international financial audit of the Central Bank of Libya. We believe this effort will serve to unite Libya's Central Bank and restore its integrity, which remains crucial to addressing socio-economic difficulties and humanitarian challenges - exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Of equal importance is the need to resolve the impasse on the budget to enable the Government to execute its duties, especially the delivery of basic services to the Libyan people.

Libya's existing realities demand the consolidated efforts of all Libyans. Standing together at this critical juncture, will only redound to their benefit. The onus is on all Libyans to build on the positive momentum, forge a path forward, exhibit compromise, and settle differences.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its solidarity with the Government and people of Libya and will continue to work with the international community to assist with its restoration, stability and sustainable development.

Thank you, Mr. President.