



**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,

I also thank Special Envoy Ján Kubiš and Ms Lamees Ben-saad for their comprehensive briefings and Ambassador T.S. Tiru-murti, the Permanent Representative of India, for the Chair's 42nd report, pursuant to resolution 1970. And I welcome the Permanent Representative of Libya, Ambassador Taher El-Sonni.

Mr President,

Libya is at an important historic juncture. Exactly one month from today, Libyans are expected to hold their inaugural parliamentary and presidential elections, which we hope will be conducted in an inclusive, free, fair and credible manner, with the full participation of women. We welcome Libya's impressive achievements in recent months leading towards these important elections, including last month's National Stabilization Conference.

The constructive efforts of the United Nations, in particular UNSMIL, the African Union, the League of Arab States, the European Union and other international partners, in accompanying Libya's political process, remain critical. Accordingly, we welcome the recent Declaration of the International Conference on Libya, which was held in Paris. The international community must continue to support Libya, within the parameters of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We commend the technical preparatory work of the High National Electoral Commission (HNEC) to facilitate a smooth electoral process and wish to implore the relevant Libyan authorities to ensure that all the necessary arrangements on the electoral legal framework will be concluded for Libyans to exercise their franchise.

Elections remain a first and significant step towards Libya's democratic transition and ought to be conducted in a safe environment.

This brings me to my next point—the security situation. Approximately one year following the signing of the ceasefire agreement, the progress in its implementation is minimal. We welcome the ongoing efforts of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) and applaud the agreement reached on the Action Plan for the withdrawal of mercenaries and foreign fighters from the country. The importance of this Action Plan cannot be overstated given the repeated calls by this Council for mercenaries and foreign fighters to depart Libya in a supervised and orderly manner. We therefore hail the recent 5+5 JMC meeting held in Egypt, with the participation of Chad, Niger and Sudan on establishing an effective communication and coordination mechanism to support the implementation of the said plan. We also underscore the need for the strict implementation of the arms embargo.

The quickening pace of the on-rushing global challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, have made it pellucidly clear that Libya's many-sided challenges need to be addressed effectively and through durable parallel solutions. The need to prioritize the unification of Libya's institutions is central, and we note with satisfaction the ongoing work on the economic and financial tracks, including the international financial audit of the Central Bank of Libya. These efforts should serve to unite Libya's Central Bank, whilst also ensuring that important mechanisms are established to address socio-economic and humanitarian challenges and delivering basic services to the Libyan people. We therefore take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of preserving Libya's natural resources for the sole benefit of Libyans.

Equally, we encourage greater efforts to address human rights challenges, especially the challenges facing groups made most vulnerable, including refugees and migrants, internally displaced persons, youth, women and girls. Once more, we adopt the Secretary General's assertion that Libya remains an unsafe port for the disembarkation of migrants and refugees and repeat our call for their full protection and safety, especially those in detention centers. We also agree with him that States need to revisit policies that support interception at sea and return of refugees and migrants to Libya.

Over the last decade, we have witnessed the painful experience of our Libyan brothers and sisters, who have paid the high and awful price of external intervention and the scourge of war. From the lessons of history, we know that peace and prosperity are indivisible and reconciliation is necessary for rebuilding processes. In this vein, we are satisfied with the commitment of the African Union in support of the Libyan national reconciliation process.

Mr. President,

Libyans have endured and suffered enough, and through their own resolve and willingness, have decided they need peace and stability. Like all independent and sovereign nations, they deserve to live in peace. They deserve a future that offers prosperity and in this regard we underscore the plea made by Ms. Bensaad earlier today. Let us continue to accompany and support Libya during this important stage and beyond, to ensure our brotherly country returns to its rightful path of peace, stability and sustainable development.

I thank you.