



Security Council

Seventy-seventh year

9098th meeting
Monday, 25 July 2022, 3 p.m.
New York

Provisional

<i>President:</i>	Mr. De Almeida Filho	(Brazil)
<i>Members:</i>	Albania	Mr. Hoxha
	China	Mr. Dai Bing
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Gabon	Mrs. Ngyema Ndong
	Ghana	Mr. Korbieh
	India	Mr. Raguttahalli
	Ireland	Mr. Gallagher
	Kenya	Mr. Kimani
	Mexico	Mr. De la Fuente Ramírez
	Norway	Ms. Juul
	Russian Federation	Mr. Polyanskiy
	United Arab Emirates	Mr. Abushahab
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland . .	Dame Barbara Woodward
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Libya

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Libya

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Libya to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, Assistant Secretary-General for Africa in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I now give the floor to Ms. Pobee.

Ms. Pobee: I thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to brief the Security Council on recent developments in Libya.

The overall situation in Libya remains highly volatile. Despite the progress achieved, the constitutional and political stalemate persists, prolonging the tense security environment, with an increased number of clashes in and around Tripoli. The economic situation remains dire, exacerbated by the politicization of the National Oil Corporation. We have witnessed demonstrations by frustrated Libyans over the lack of progress on elections and poor State services. In addition, the human rights situation in the country still remains of serious concern.

Since the previous briefing to the Security Council (S/PV.9078), on 27 June, progress has been made on the constitutional track. Special Adviser Williams convened a high-level meeting between the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the High State Council. The meeting took place at the United Nations in Geneva from 28 to 29 June.

The leadership of the two Chambers overcame important contentious points and outstanding provisions of the 2017 constitutional proposal, and concurred on some of the transitional measures that would lead to the holding of national elections. The two leaders agreed on a bicameral legislature, as well as on defining the responsibilities of the President, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet of Ministers and local government. There

was also consensus on the establishment of provinces according to Libya's existing electoral districts and on a revenue-distribution mechanism. Furthermore, the two leaders charted a road map, with timelines and a series of steps leading to the holding of national elections.

Despite the promising progress achieved, one outstanding issue prevented the finalization of the agreement in Geneva. The parties did not reach consensus on the question of eligibility requirements for presidential candidates.

Special Adviser Williams has remained in contact with the parties, and urges them to bridge that gap. On 21 July, she attended a meeting of international partners in Istanbul. She reiterated that the only lasting solution that places Libya firmly on the path towards peace and stability, including resolving the current political crisis and restoring legitimacy to Libyan institutions, is through the holding of national elections as soon as possible. We again call on the members of the Security Council and all Libya's international partners to continue to exercise their influence on the two leaders to reach a final agreement that would allow elections to be held as soon as possible.

On 1 July, demonstrations were held across Libya, including in Tripoli, Benghazi, Al-Bayda and Tobruk. The Parliament building in Tobruk was stormed and damaged. Protestors expressed their frustration with the continuing political divisions and the deterioration of their living conditions. They demanded the swift holding of elections and solutions to the country's electricity crisis and fuel shortage. We urge Libya's political leaders to heed the calls of their people and demonstrate responsible leadership by addressing their grievances.

The continued political divisions, including the crisis over the executive and sovereign institutions, are prolonging the tense security environment in and around Tripoli. As the armed groups continue to position themselves in support of either Mr. Dbeibah or Mr. Bashagha, the risk of escalation increases. Military activity has also increased in the western region, especially on the eastern flank of Tripoli, in Misrata and on the outskirts of Sirte. We are deeply concerned about the armed clashes in Tripoli that took place on the night of 21 July and the skirmishes in Misrata on 23 July among armed groups, resulting in an unconfirmed number of civilian casualties. We reiterate the importance of maintaining the ceasefire in Libya

and urge all the parties to exercise maximum restraint and address disputes through peaceful dialogue. We also remind all the parties of their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure.

I welcomed the resumption of the activities of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission and the holding of meetings in Cairo and Tripoli between the military commanders of the Libyan Army. I commend their calls for maintaining calm and stability in the country, as well as their efforts to unify the military institutions. I am also pleased to report that the Libyan monitors, together with the international monitors of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), conducted two joint workshops in Tunis in June and July to operationalize the Libyan-led and Libyan-owned ceasefire monitoring mechanism. The UNSMIL ceasefire monitoring component, the 5+5 Joint Military Commission and the Libyan monitors plan to meet in Sirte in early August to finalize a proposed plan for the withdrawal of foreign forces and mercenaries. On that occasion they also intend to activate a joint operations room.

We are concerned about the ongoing disagreement over the leadership of the National Oil Corporation. On 12 July, Mr. Dbeibah appointed Farhat Bengdara, the former Governor of the Central Bank of Libya, as the new Chairperson of the National Oil Corporation. He replaced Mustafa Sanalla, who had headed the Corporation since 2015. Mr. Sanalla rejected the decision to replace him and intends to take up the matter with the Libyan judiciary. Meanwhile, Libya resumed oil exports on 19 July. The shutdown that began on 16 April had reduced Libyan oil exports by two thirds and cost the country \$4 billion in lost revenue. It is too soon to confirm whether oil production will be resumed at full capacity and whether changes at the National Oil Corporation will further affect oil production and export. We underline the need for the National Oil Corporation to remain neutral and free from the pressure of political interests. We call on all the relevant actors to overcome their differences with a view to ensuring the full exploitation of the country's oilfields. We also reiterate that Libya's natural resources belong to all Libyans. Revenues from oil exports should be distributed evenly and utilized fairly to enhance service delivery. The United Nations reiterates its call to all actors to avoid actions that would cause a regression in the levels of oil production and export at this critical juncture.

The human rights situation in Libya remains of serious concern. The dire economic situation has had a negative impact on people's fundamental right to basic services and access to food, water, sanitation, health care and education. In addition, UNSMIL has received reports that medical facilities lack oxygen supplies for surgeries and critical care and that clinics across the country have faced severe challenges owing to the extended power cuts and lack of fuel for generators. The Mission also received reports that dozens of protesters who participated in the 1 July demonstrations were arbitrarily arrested by armed groups. The United Nations emphasizes the fundamental right to peaceful assembly, association and freedom of expression and calls for the release of all who have been arbitrarily detained. The increase in incidents of violence against women during Eid al-Fitr, including the murder of at least six women, including one girl, in Benghazi in eastern Libya, and Ain Zara and the city of Gharyan in western Libya, must be condemned.

Meanwhile, the civic space continues to be eroded, with arbitrary restrictions still being imposed on civil-society organizations. Politically active women and men defending human rights are targeted with hate speech and incitement to violence, compromising their safety and security. We remain concerned about the continued detention of nine civil-society and humanitarian workers arrested between November 2021 and February 2022 for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression. On 6 July, four of those arbitrarily detained persons were once again not permitted to attend their second scheduled court hearing.

UNSMIL has continued to receive reports of serious allegations of torture being inflicted on Libyans, migrants and asylum-seekers in detention facilities and prisons. UNSMIL observed a wave of discrimination, expulsions and arbitrary arrests of migrants while they celebrated the holiday in the western Libyan cities of Zuwarah, Zawiyah, Tripoli, Misrata and Sabratah. It was particularly worrying that a radio station in Zawiyah broadcast hate speech against migrants, asserting that they were responsible for spreading diseases. The Libyan authorities must investigate all allegations of torture and other human rights violations. Those responsible must be held accountable domestically or, as applicable, by international justice mechanisms such as the International Criminal Court. Against that backdrop, I welcomed the recent nine-month extension of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya

and the findings of its recent report (A/HRC/50/63), which includes recommendations on the human rights situation there.

While the main priority of the United Nations in Libya continues to be facilitating a return to the electoral process, we should continue supporting and encouraging Libyan counterparts to focus on effectively addressing the key drivers of the political and economic stalemate, including those that triggered the 1 July demonstrations. The message from the young Libyans to their leadership was that more must be done to improve their living conditions and that they want elections to be held as soon as possible so that they can choose their legitimate representatives. We also emphasize the readiness of the United Nations to support the African Union's efforts to organize a national reconciliation conference. In that regard, we welcomed the recent technical-level meeting held in Brazzaville at the initiative of President Denis Sassou Nguesso, bringing together the African Union and other partners in its support.

We count on the members of the Council and the wider international community to continue supporting the United Nations in its efforts to facilitate a mutually agreeable solution that will put an end to the continuing crisis in Libya.

The President: I thank Ms. Pobee for her briefing.

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements.

Dame Barbara Woodward (United Kingdom): I thank Ms. Pobee for her briefing today. I would also like to pay tribute to Stephanie Williams' dedication to her role and to welcome the Secretary-General's efforts to find a new Special Representative.

I would like to make four points.

First, the United Kingdom is concerned about the recent violence in Tripoli and Misrata. The preservation of peace has been one of the successes of the past two years. There needs to be de-escalation to ensure that relative peace continues. Combined with the protests that took place earlier this month, those events demonstrate the urgent need for the delivery of a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned inclusive political process. Libyan parties need to compromise and agree on a pathway to achieve parliamentary and presidential elections.

Secondly, we urge Libyan actors to refrain from the politicization of State institutions, including the National Oil Corporation. The Libyan people need to see the full resumption of oil production and the equitable distribution of the State's oil wealth. However, that should not come at the expense of the integrity and independence of the National Oil Corporation, or jeopardize Libya's progress towards stability, sovereignty and national unity.

Thirdly, as Ms. Pobee said, it is imperative that authorities respect and protect human rights across Libya. The United Kingdom remains very concerned about the human rights abuses and violations identified in the most recent interim report of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya, as well as the recent crackdowns on civil society. Libyan authorities must build and deliver mechanisms that safeguard human rights and enable civil society to flourish as a key component of accountability.

Fourthly, the United Kingdom welcomes the European Union Naval Force Mediterranean Operation IRINI's interdiction of a vessel carrying military vehicles intended for Libya and underscores the responsibility of all Member States to fully comply with the United Nations arms embargo on Libya.

In conclusion, the United Kingdom reaffirms its readiness to work with Libya and all international partners on a constructive way forward, both on the ground in Libya and in the Security Council.

Mr. Raguttahalli (India): Let me begin by thanking Assistant Secretary-General Martha Pobee for her briefing today. I also welcome the presence of the Permanent Representative of Libya in today's meeting.

We are closely following the developments in Libya. The recent protests and continuing political disagreements are a matter of concern. We welcome the progress made at the meeting between the President of the House of Representatives and the Head of the High State Council held in Geneva last month. It is imperative that all outstanding political issues be resolved peacefully by the parties concerned, while keeping in mind the greater interests of the Libyan people. We hope that all parties will work together to maintain peace and stability in Libya. In that regard, we also take note of the meetings held among the military leaders in Tripoli last week.

The immediate priority for Libya is to hold presidential and parliamentary elections at the earliest opportunity in a free, fair, inclusive and credible manner. We look forward to an early consensus among the Libyan parties on the constitutional basis for holding the elections. The reports of clashes and the continued mobilization and activity of armed groups are a worrisome sign. There are real risks of losing the momentum generated on the ground by the signing of the ceasefire agreement.

We remain concerned about the resurgence of terrorist activity in Libya and reiterate that terrorist groups and affiliated entities must not be allowed to operate unchallenged in Libya. That menace is bound to have cascading effects on the Sahel region. It is therefore important for the international community to focus on it now and nip it in the bud at this stage so as to avoid the collateral consequences of terrorism in Africa.

The critical necessity of the full and complete withdrawal of foreign forces and mercenaries cannot be overemphasized. We have yet to see signs of tangible progress on that count. The continued presence of foreign forces and mercenaries is detrimental to the peace and stability of the country and the region. In that regard, we express serious concern about the repeated violations of the arms embargo in Libya. In its recent report, the Panel of Experts of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) categorically pointed out that

“[t]he remainder of the training provided by Turkey to the Government of National Unity Affiliated Forces is military or naval in nature and thus a violation of paragraph 9 of resolution 1970 (2011)” (S/2022/427, para. 77).

Moreover, in the same report, the Panel of Experts also

“noted the continuous presence of Turkish-backed Syrian fighters in Government of National Unity-Affiliated Forces military camps in Tripoli” (*ibid.*, para. 30).

We reiterate that the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Libya needs to be safeguarded. The political process must be fully Libyan-led and Libyan-owned, with no imposition of external interference.

In conclusion, let me underscore that India has traditionally enjoyed close and mutually beneficial bilateral ties with the Libyan people and we remain

committed to supporting Libya and the Libyan people in their endeavour to bring about lasting peace and stability.

Mr. Kimani (Kenya): I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the three African members of the Security Council — Gabon, Ghana and Kenya (A3).

We thank Assistant Secretary-General Martha Pobe for her briefing and welcome the participation of Ambassador Taher Elsonni, Permanent Representative of Libya.

We acknowledge the continued useful efforts of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General for Libya, Ms. Stephanie Williams, in furthering the dialogue between the joint committee of the House of Representatives and the High State Council.

We note the progress made during the consultations on Libya’s constitutional track held on 28 and 29 June in Geneva, under the auspices of the United Nations. We reiterate that a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned dialogue is the only option for achieving a sustainable solution to the crisis. To that end, the A3 commends the representatives of the two chambers for their efforts to reach consensus and urges them to build on what they have achieved.

We also welcome the meeting between General Mohamed Al-Haddad and General Abdel-Razek Al-Nadori, which builds on the work of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) and the commitments by the parties to ensuring that the ceasefire holds. It is crucial that the representatives of both sides continue to work on the formation of a unified structure for the army and agree on the appointment of a single Commander-in-Chief.

We acknowledge the commitment of the Head of the High State Council and the Deputy Head of the Presidential Council to reviewing the road map initiative for parliamentary and presidential elections, which will help to identify ways to resolve their differences and move forward with the constitutional track.

We are closely following the meetings held by Libya’s High National Elections Commission to discuss the development of the voter registration system and ways to improve it for the upcoming electoral period. It is important that an agreement be reached on election laws as soon as possible in order to enable the eagerly anticipated elections to take place.

Those recent events have demonstrated that Libyans can work together across the political divide to achieve peace and security. We must strive to ensure that those processes are inclusive, nationally owned and free from any external interference.

However, we call upon the relevant Libyan institutions and authorities to implement confidence-building measures in order to create an environment conducive for successful national presidential and parliamentary elections, including by ensuring the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women and the inclusion of youth and civil society representatives in all activities and decision-making relating to democracy.

It is for that reason that the African Union's commitment to support an inclusive and comprehensive national reconciliation process is so important. We urge all Security Council members to embed that initiative in the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), reflecting its anticipated operationalization by resolution 2510 (2020).

We note with concern the recent clashes between armed groups in Tripoli, which resulted in civilian casualties. We urge the leadership and the people of Libya to exercise restraint, shun violence and seek to resolve their differences by peaceful means.

The continued presence of foreign fighters and mercenaries in Libya can add to insecurity. All responsible parties should therefore support the initiative of the 5+5 JMC to develop arrangements and a national action plan for their withdrawal. That withdrawal requires close monitoring and coordination to ensure corresponding disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in their countries of origin. The utmost care should be taken to ensure that the process does not create an environment conducive for recruitment into terrorist groups. It is therefore imperative that there be close coordination with the neighbouring states, in liaison with relevant regional and subregional mechanisms.

We reiterate our deep concern about the suffering of thousands of migrants and refugees in Libya. The persistent interception and return to Libyan ports of migrants crossing the Mediterranean in search of a better life in Europe is not a sustainable solution; neither is the application of resources to the establishment of inhumane holding areas for them in Libya.

We condemn the inhumane treatment the migrants are subjected to on land and sea and demand that those involved desist from such abuses of human rights and adhere to their commitments under international humanitarian law. We equally condemn the provision of resources and targeted information in support of such treatment. Those involved must abide by the relevant international laws and norms governing migration and the treatment of refugees. They must also cooperate with the international community in consideration of viable ways of addressing the root causes of migration.

UNSMIL must be well structured and effectively led in order to enable the Council to adequately support Libya. We therefore reiterate Africa's strong recommendation for the filling of the position of Special Representative of the Secretary-General with a candidate from Africa at the earliest opportunity.

We also look forward to the substantial renewal of the UNSMIL mandate in order to safeguard the gains so far, signal the Security Council's support and pave way for the implementation of envisaged improvements under the mandate. The people of Libya deserve a Mission that can facilitate and support the necessary dialogue, not one held hostage by geopolitical considerations.

Finally, we urge that any action on Libya's frozen assets be undertaken in consultation with the Libyan authorities in order to ensure that the country's frozen assets are preserved for the eventual return to, and for the benefit of, its citizens.

In conclusion, we reaffirm our commitment to a truly Libyan-led and -owned peace process and our respect for Libya's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Mr. De la Fuente Ramírez (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Assistant Secretary-General Martha Pobe for her briefing and welcome the Permanent Representative of Libya.

Mexico expresses its concern about the deteriorating security situation in Libya. The intensification of fighting among militias in Tripoli represents a serious risk for the civilian population and an obstacle to efforts to stabilize the country.

Without clear prospects for the future of the political process, the popular discontent that has been expressed on the streets over the past month will probably increase. We believe that the Libyan people have clearly expressed their will to elect a Government that meets the real needs of the population. It is now up

to those in positions of power to listen to that message and to resume preparations for free, credible and inclusive elections as soon as possible.

The Security Council, for its part, must take into account the lessons learned from recent initiatives to facilitate a dialogue between Libyan political actors. Without the unanimous support of the Security Council, the efforts led by the Secretary-General on the ground will be more limited. Let us work together to move forward on this complex dynamic afflicting Libya. We know all too well that a resumption of hostilities would have a very serious impact on the whole region.

In recent months it has become clear that some Libyan political actors lack genuine commitment to build a country that moves towards peace. At this critical time for Libya's future, the international community must strictly enforce the decisions of the Security Council. It is up to the Council to use the tools at its disposal to ensure that those obstructing the political process do not continue to act with impunity.

Recent reports of possible shipments of military equipment to Libya, in clear contravention of Council resolutions, are worrisome. We call on all States to cooperate with the European Union Naval Force Mediterranean Operation IRINI in order to prevent weapons from continuing to fuel violence in Libya, and we call for investigations of all vessels suspected of transporting military equipment to Libya. We recall that the authorization for this European operation can be used by any State or regional organization to monitor compliance with the arms embargo.

Mexico also welcomes the recent meeting between Generals Al-Haddad and Al-Nadori in Tripoli. We call on the parties to move towards the unification of the security forces and the comprehensive implementation of the ceasefire, within the framework of the work being carried out by the 5+5 Joint Military Commission. My country reiterates the importance of a coordinated withdrawal of foreign fighters and mercenaries as soon as possible.

Finally, we urge the authorities to respect their obligations under international human rights law. Recent reports of arbitrary arrests and disappearances of protesters must be investigated and, if proved, the perpetrators must be punished. Justice and the rule of law are the best tools to break the cycle of violence and to lay the foundation for genuine national reconciliation in Libya.

Mr. DeLaurentis (United States of America): I would like to thank Assistant Secretary-General Pobebe for her briefing. We welcome reports of considerable progress made in Cairo and Geneva by delegations from the House of Representatives and High Council of State towards an agreement on a constitutional framework for elections, and we credit Special Adviser Stephanie Williams for her role in facilitating that progress.

It is unfortunate that the Speaker of the House of Representatives Speaker, Aqilah Salah and the President of the High State Council, Khalid Al-Mishri, were unable to come to agreement on the eligibility requirements for candidates in the presidential elections. We urge them to maintain dialogue and redouble their efforts to reach agreement on outstanding matters. These issues are the same as those that derailed elections in December.

It is past time for Libya's leaders to set aside personal interests and implement a plan that ends with free and fair elections in line with the road map established by the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum. Delays do a disservice to the Libyan people, who are demanding their rightful opportunity to choose leaders who will deliver transparent governance.

Delays are also dangerous, creating opportunities for political maneuvering and miscalculations that can increase tension and lead to violence. The turmoil surrounding Libya's oil sector is an example. The use of hydrocarbon revenue to buy support from militias and foreign mercenaries increases the armed presence in cities and is destabilizing. The politically motivated shutdown of Libyan oil production has robbed the Libyan people of revenues derived from their natural resources.

The prospect of resuming oil production will be welcomed by Libyans and the international community. But the international community must ensure production does in fact resume, and when it does, we must ensure that the integrity of the Libyan National Oil Corporation as an apolitical institution is maintained and that revenues are managed in a transparent and accountable manner.

These developments take place concurrently with a disappointing step back in the reunification of the Central Bank of Libya. While we applauded the recent initiative of the Central Bank to release more detailed monthly statements, which should reduce suspicion among leadership factions and build public trust in the bank, we are concerned that steps toward reunification

have stalled, amid reports that the eastern-based branch is seeking to print currency abroad.

Also deeply disturbing are shows of force by militias and the attendant sporadic violence, all in service of political maneuvering. We urge all sides to refrain from unilateral actions that will lead to violence. We welcome the Human Rights Council's extension of the mandate of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya, which is an important step in continuing to document human rights violations and abuses in support of transitional justice and a more durable resolution to the conflict.

The most effective mechanism to reduce the risk of widespread violence is the demobilization of militias and the immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces, fighters and mercenaries. This includes Russia's Wagner Group, which operates both in Libya and across Africa, which it accesses from its bases in eastern and southern Libya.

The United Nations role in supporting Libya through its political, economic and security challenges is critical. It is now time for this Council to provide United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) with a clear and comprehensive one-year mandate so the Mission can work confidently to address the many issues facing Libya. We call on all members to engage constructively in negotiations towards a comprehensive mandate and vote to adopt a resolution that reflects the views of the vast majority of the Security Council.

Council members are engaged with the Secretary-General as he works to nominate a candidate for Special Representative. Refusing to allow a substantive 12-month mandate until the Special Representative of the Secretary-General is in place will only result in hobbling UNSMIL at a critical moment, when effective leadership could be instrumental in sealing an agreement to hold elections. If we allow this to happen, we will be allowing Council members to hold a mandate-renewal hostage as a means of achieving political aims. That would be a dangerous precedent, and one we have seen play out on other files in recent weeks. We ask that all Council members adopt a more constructive approach that empowers UNSMIL with the resources and political guidance needed to succeed.

Mr. De Rivièrè (France) (*spoke in French*): I thank the Assistant Secretary-General for her briefing.

France would like to see a rapid resolution of the executive-power crisis in Libya. The status quo is not sustainable; it carries risks for the country's stability. The tensions between militias, which are increasing in the Tripolitania region, are proof of that. This crisis must be resolved, and a unified Government capable of conducting the electoral process throughout the country must be established.

It is also urgent to put Libya back on the path to elections. France supports the efforts of the United Nations to reach an agreement between the two Chambers on a constitutional basis in order to allow presidential and parliamentary elections to be held as soon as possible. It calls on the Libyan actors to rapidly finalize an agreement, particularly on the criteria for eligibility.

The arms embargo must finally be respected. The European Union military operation in the Mediterranean (Operation IRINI) makes it possible to ensure this in practice, as was recently demonstrated by action against a ship that violated the embargo.

France calls for the full implementation of the ceasefire agreement. This requires the withdrawal of all foreign forces and mercenaries as soon as possible, in accordance with the Libyan action plan, as well as the implementation of a demobilization, disarmament and reintegration process, in conjunction with the countries of the region.

We welcome the meeting in Tripoli between Generals Haddad and Nadhourî as part of the work of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission. This is a further step towards the reunification of Libya's military and security institutions, which demonstrates a strong commitment to the stabilization of the country and Libya's sovereignty.

France welcomes the reopening of the oil terminals. The resumption of production and exports is an important step. France will continue to support a fair and transparent redistribution of revenues for the benefit of the population as a whole. We welcome the renewal of the mandate of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya, which is essential to the fight against impunity. This is first and foremost the responsibility of the Libyan authorities, who must establish independent and strong judicial institutions. France calls on the Libyan parties to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court, in accordance with resolution 1970 (2011).

Finally, as the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) approaches its end, France calls for a substantial renewal of its mandate in order to take into account developments in the situation over the past year. It commends the work of the Special Adviser and reiterates its call for the appointment of a Special Representative without further delay in order to avoid a vacancy at the helm of the United Nations mediation.

Mr. Gallagher (Ireland): Let me thank the briefer today, Assistant Secretary-General Pobe. I would also like to recognize the Permanent Representative of Libya, who is with us today.

Ireland is gravely concerned about the violence in Tripoli and Misrata last week, resulting in civilian casualties. We express our deepest condolences to the victims and their loved ones. This incident demonstrates how precarious the security situation in Libya has become. We call on all actors to refrain fully from any escalatory actions and preserve the fragile stability in place since the October 2020 ceasefire agreement.

We commend the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) for its ongoing exemplary efforts on a number of key security issues and welcome the recent meeting with military leaders.

The seizure last week of a vessel likely to be in violation of the United Nations arms embargo by the European Union military operation in the Mediterranean (Operation IRINI) further demonstrates the crucial role Operation IRINI plays in contributing to the embargo's implementation.

Ireland hopes to see a substantive renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) this week. Special Adviser Williams has done a commendable job in brokering an agreement between the parties on many sensitive issues. However, last week's events show the need for a fully mandated UNSMIL, with its leadership agreed and in place. We call on the Security Council to show flexibility in facilitating the appointment of a new Special Representative at the earliest opportunity.

Last month, the presidents of the House of Representatives and the High Council of State met in Geneva under United Nations auspices to review the outstanding provisions of the 2017 Constitution. While the two sides made progress, as we have heard, building upon the JMC talks in Cairo, it is very disappointing

that they did not bridge the remaining gaps to settle on a constitutional basis for elections. We strongly urge all Libyan actors to intensify dialogue towards resolving outstanding issues to deliver for the Libyan people.

The findings of the third report of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya (FFM) make for disturbing reading. We are particularly troubled by incidents of sexual and gender-based violence, including against migrants. We call upon the authorities to address the failure of domestic legal frameworks to protect survivors and to improve and increase support structures.

Libyan women are facing extreme barriers to meaningful participation in their country's political transition. Even the use of the term "feminist" has become grounds for investigation and arrest. We sadly recalled the third anniversary last week of the abduction and enforced disappearance of Siham Sergewa. We call for accountability for her disappearance and condemn all acts that attempt to silence women's voices.

The FFM's work, along with the renewed investigation of the International Criminal Court, is an important step towards delivering accountability and providing redress. This is crucial for the pursuit of peace, justice and reconciliation. We welcomed the consensus renewal of the FFM's mandate at Human Rights Council earlier this month.

A free and safe civic space is indispensable to the growth and sustenance of democracy. Recent demonstrations by Libyans, many of them youth-led, should serve as a wake-up call for Libyan leaders to put the needs and aspirations of their people first. It goes without saying that protests should remain peaceful, and security forces must exercise maximum restraint and act in compliance with human rights obligations. We also stress the importance of the fair and transparent management — free from political interference — of Libya's resources and public wealth.

In conclusion, a Libyan-owned and Libyan-led process facilitated by the United Nations establishing a constitutional basis that paves the way for free, fair and inclusive national elections is the only way to overcome the current political deadlock. Libyans deserve a safe and prosperous future. It is past time for this.

Ms. Juul (Norway): I thank Assistant Secretary-General Pobe for her briefing. We also welcome the

presence of the Permanent Representative of Libya at today's meeting.

We continue to give our full support to the United Nations and Special Adviser Williams. The Special Adviser's efforts to facilitate negotiations on a constitutional framework for elections are critical.

Recent developments in Libya are extremely concerning. The fighting in Tripoli and Misrata over the weekend clearly demonstrates how unstable the security situation is.

We call on all parties to protect civilians, including children, in accordance with international law. The protection of civilians is critical to fostering sustainable peace. It is clear that the lack of a unified executive government and Libyan leaders' power-brokering behind the scenes contribute only to increased tensions and lack of confidence in the authorities.

Corruption, power cuts, increased food prices and the crackdown on civil society is further fuelling discontent. The Libyan people are angry and frustrated. The protests earlier this month demonstrate that their patience is not limitless. This was a clear signal to Libya's political leadership — and it should not go unheeded. The Libyan people have made it clear that they want improved public services, participation and to elect their own leaders. Free, fair, and inclusive national elections must be held as soon as possible.

One positive development relates to the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) resuming its work. We welcome the talks between the commanders of the Libyan army in Tripoli earlier this month and call for strengthened efforts on the security track, including in the JMC. Unifying the Libyan armed forces is essential.

The deterioration of the situation in Libya illustrates the need for a strong, relevant and effective United Nations presence. The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) plays a vital role but needs more resources and greater predictability. We are concerned by reports that the Libyan people are increasingly losing confidence in the United Nations. The Security Council must therefore live up to its responsibility and provide UNSMIL with a robust 12-month mandate renewal. We must agree on a substantial resolution that reflects the developments on the ground and sends a strong signal to Libya's political leaders.

Finally, Norway reiterates its support for the European Union military operation in the Mediterranean

(Operation IRINI). Last week's interception by Operation IRINI of a vessel violating the arms embargo illustrates its valuable contribution to implementing the arms embargo. We will continue to urge all States to uphold the embargo.

Mr. Dai Bing (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Assistant Secretary-General Pobe for her briefing and welcome the Permanent Representative of Libya to today's meeting.

Since 24 December last year, the political transition in Libya has continued to face challenges, and its negative impact on the situation in the country is gradually emerging. The Libyan people are eager to move the political transition forward and see an improvement in the economy and their livelihoods.

China welcomes the progress made by the Libyan House of Representatives and the High Council of State on the constitutional basis for the elections. We encourage all parties in Libya to stay committed to the general direction of political settlement, maintain the momentum of positive dialogue, and negotiate and resolve the key outstanding differences as soon as possible so as to create favourable conditions for holding elections at an early date.

Under the current circumstances, the maintenance of security and stability in Libya should be the shared objective for all parties. China is deeply concerned about the recent clashes in Tripoli and elsewhere and urges all parties to exercise maximum restraint, avoid any unilateral action that may lead to an escalation of tensions and maintain the hard-won peace and stability.

The 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) plays a key role in maintaining the ceasefire and implementing the ceasefire agreement. China supports strengthening cooperation between the JMC and the ceasefire-monitoring component of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) to achieve the full implementation of the mechanism as soon as possible. China looks forward to progress in the withdrawal of foreign forces and mercenaries from Libya on the premise of ensuring military balance.

Oil is an important source of income for national reconstruction and the improvement of livelihoods in Libya. China welcomes the fact that the Libyan parties are working to remove political interference, negotiate and resolve differences in the management of the oil sector and revenue distribution, and ensure the normal

order of oil production in Libya. Libya's oil industry should continue to be managed by the country, and all oil revenues should be used for the benefit of its people. Frozen assets are an important resource for national reconstruction, and the countries concerned should ensure the integrity of these assets, in strict accordance with Security Council resolutions.

UNSMIL's mandate will expire soon. Given that the political process in Libya is at a critical stage, China supports the extension of UNSMIL's mandate. The Security Council should continue to maintain the frequency of its deliberations and devote its attention to the issue of Libya. China supports the selection of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General from an African country and hopes that the selection and appointment process will be expedited.

Mr. Abushahab (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Ms. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee for her comprehensive briefing, and we welcome the participation of Ambassador Taher Elsonni in today's meeting.

We have followed with concern recent events unfolding across several Libyan cities, including the escalation and recurrence of clashes between armed groups in Tripoli. In that regard, we stress the need to avoid acts of violence and sabotage and for all parties to exercise the utmost restraint. We also offer our sincere condolences to the families of the victims of last week's clashes.

As the Libyan parties were unable to reach consensus on certain issues regarding Libya's draft constitution, which serves as the basis for the presidential and parliamentary elections, we note that the continued deadlock in the political process has disrupted the daily life of the Libyan people and their legitimate aspirations. It also has led to frustrations that have been reflected on the current security situation.

It is imperative to maintain the momentum and progress achieved in the recent meetings held in Cairo and Geneva. We call on all parties to do their utmost to overcome the remaining protracted contentious issues on the draft constitution and fulfil the demands of the Libyan people. Reaching consensus will end the transitional period and lead to the holding of the elections on the date agreed upon by Libyans.

It is also imperative for all actors to commit to de-escalation and refrain from any provocative actions

that would exacerbate the security situation. They must also cooperate to overcome the current divisions. In that regard, we stress the importance of keeping the coastal road open to ensure the free movement of people and goods between cities while avoiding any negative measures that may add to the suffering of the Libyan people. Furthermore, efforts must continue to ensure that all vital Libyan institutions and facilities not take sides and are unified.

Achieving sustainable peace makes it imperative for all Libyan parties to join the national reconciliation initiative and work to unite and overcome past differences in accordance with the values of tolerance and justice. They must do so while using the appropriate mechanisms to achieve transitional justice. This initiative is essential to enhancing confidence among all political parties and achieving the legitimate demands of the Libyan people. The Security Council and the entire international community must spare no effort in supporting that initiative, which is a key step in building a stable Libyan State. We emphasize once again the pivotal role played by international and regional organizations, such as the League of Arab States and the African Union, in supporting the achievement of those goals.

We commend the 5+5 Joint Military Commission for its tireless efforts to protect the ceasefire agreement. We also welcome the outcomes of the Commission's recent meetings concluded last week, and we urge for continued efforts in that regard. Furthermore, we welcome the second meeting of the local and international ceasefire monitors facilitated by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). We stress the importance of the withdrawal of forces, foreign fighters and mercenaries from Libya, in a simultaneous, phased, gradual and balanced manner, in accordance with the ceasefire agreement and Security Council resolutions.

We look forward to the renewal of the UNSMIL mandate in the upcoming days. We hope that the Council will adopt a substantive and integrated draft resolution that takes into consideration the current critical situation in Libya. We also look forward to the Secretary-General's appointment of a Special Representative to Libya who enjoys enough consensus in order to bring all relevant parties together and contributes to promoting the political process led by Libyans.

In conclusion, we affirm our full support for achieving the legitimate aspirations of the brotherly Libyan people. We hope that all efforts will be aimed towards overcoming current challenges to build a united, peaceful and prosperous State.

Mr. Polyanskiy (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank Assistant Secretary-General Martha Pobeë for her briefing.

We are closely following the developments in Libya. The inability to reach an agreement on the draft constitution and convene nation-wide elections within the time frame set out in the road map of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum led the country to a state of political uncertainty. The security situation then started to deteriorate, which triggered the recent protests and armed clashes. The situation is further exacerbated by the unresolved issue of the unification of economic and financial institutions and the general decline in the living standards of ordinary Libyans.

We call on all participants in the political process to maintain peace and refrain from any acts that infringe upon it. In the current conditions, incitement to violence and exploiting protests in one's own political interests are unacceptable. The inviolability of the civilian population, the State and private property must be respected.

At this stage, the most important thing is to narrow the differences among the Libyan political forces and help them find some common ground, based on which they can steadily move forward towards unifying the country in the spirit of the October 2020 ceasefire agreement and resolution 2570 (2021). We firmly believe that the national reconciliation process in Libya should be inclusive and transparent. That means the involvement of all leading political forces of the country, including representatives of the former Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. In that regard, we welcome the efforts of the African Union and the personal efforts of the Chairperson of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya, President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo. We support the African Union's proposal to convene a Libya-wide conference on national reconciliation. For its part, Russia will provide all possible assistance in the implementation of that initiative.

We welcome the ongoing efforts of Libya's House of Representatives and the High State Council to seek consensus. The sides have accomplished a great deal

of work. It is therefore especially sad that a lasting solution has not yet been achieved. Progress on the constitutional track is key to ensuring control over Libya's institutional sovereignty and guaranteeing its territorial integrity.

The Libyan stakeholders realize that a relapse into armed confrontation would be very dangerous and are striving to prevent such a situation. We note the symbolic importance of the meeting of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission in Tripoli, which is a milestone development in terms of the unification of the country's armed forces. No less important are the respective agreements on the simultaneous, well-balanced, gradual and phased withdrawal of all non-Libyan armed groups and military units from Libya.

We realize the importance of stable oil production in Libya. At the same time, we emphasize that the revenue from the sale of hydrocarbons should primarily be used to improve the living standards in the country, pay salaries to civil servants and ensure an uninterrupted energy supply. However, excessive hastiness rarely yields positive results. That work must be carried out in a thoughtful and balanced manner, taking into account the possible long-term implications for the country. There must be no impetuous steps.

In that connection, we cannot fail to notice the eagerness with which our Western colleagues, first and foremost our American colleagues, are calling for the rapid resumption of work in the largest Libyan oilfields. Given the overall tensions in global energy markets and the volatility in oil prices, that could be interpreted as them essentially approving attempts to put the urgent task of a Libyan political settlement on the back burner in favour of their own mercantile interests. That is how they act in other regions of the world as well.

We are approaching a turning point for Libya. How quickly the country's parties manage to find common ground will determine the future of the country. The approaches taken by external players must be consolidated in order to help the country emerge from the crisis, keeping a check on political actors and preventing further escalation.

Russia agrees with the international consensus that the United Nations must play a central role in the Libyan settlement process. We would like to underscore our unwavering support for the efforts of the key element of that configuration, the United Nations Support Mission

in Libya (UNSMIL), whose mandate expires at the end of this week.

It is deeply regrettable that for more than six months now, it has been acting without leadership, which has had a serious impact on its ability to properly fulfil its functions. We are convinced that the United Nations envoy must have a mandate from the Security Council. Only then will that person have all of the tools that they need to fully support the national dialogue, and only then will the Libyan people fully trust that person. Incidentally, we cannot rule out the fact that the current domestic political deadlock could be largely aggravated by the absence of just such a person.

We can see that the Secretary-General is trying to resolve the issue of the appointment of the Special Representative. Nevertheless, once again we urge him to redouble his efforts to find a special representative through a realistic and balanced approach to the problem. The candidate needs to be satisfactory to the Libyan people and regional players and be approved by all members of the Council. We believe that in this situation, the best option would be a technical extension of the UNSMIL mandate for three months. That would give the Secretariat the time it so dearly needs, and, once the Special Representative has been appointed, we can then start talking about further steps, including the adoption of a substantive resolution.

Mr. Hoxha (Albania): I thank Assistant Secretary-General Pöbke for the detailed briefing.

Albania continues to be deeply concerned by the volatile situation in Libya and the escalation of violence. The violent clashes between urban groups in Tripoli last week, which caused civilian casualties, are deeply troubling, as they reflect a situation of uninterrupted rivalry when what the country needs is the opposite. As a result, the fragile stability in the country remains under serious threat.

There should be a rallying cry for the responsible parties in Libya to de-escalate, denounce violence in all its forms, exercise maximum restraint and choose dialogue as the only viable method of resolving disputes. We welcome in that regard the commitment of Mr. Dbeibah and Mr. Bashagha to de-escalate the situation, because time is not on the side of Libya and its people, and too much precious time has already been lost. Libya needs to invest immediately in legitimacy, and the only way to move forward is to hold elections as a matter of absolute priority to break the deadlock.

We regret the fact that the parties have made no further progress on the remaining issues on the constitutional track. That gridlock runs counter to the aspirations and rights of the Libyan people, who are demanding a democratic country based on the rule of law. The recent protest is testimony to the resolve of the Libyan people and their thirst for basic freedoms and democracy. The right of people to exercise their rights should be respected.

The armed clashes in Tripoli show the importance of the full implementation of the arms embargo in Libya, and we commend the efforts of the European Union Naval Force Mediterranean Operation IRINI in that regard, as recently demonstrated.

Respect for basic rights must be at the heart of all efforts to restore order in the country. We deplore any and all violations of human rights and call for accountability. Civilians, especially women and children, continue to be disproportionately affected by violence. We urge the relevant parties to investigate those attacks and hold the perpetrators to account.

We believe that for it to be viable, the reconciliation process in the country must be inclusive and based on rights and on the principles of transitional justice.

A Libyan-led and Libyan-owned process, supported by the United Nations, is the right path to move ahead. The Libyan people want to choose their political leaders through credible, fair and inclusive elections as soon as possible. We commend the stewardship of Special Adviser Williams in that respect.

Security remains key to establishing order in the country, and we welcome the positive developments on the security track. The meeting of the commanders of the Libyan army in Tripoli on 18 and 19 July is a positive step towards the unification of the military. The full implementation of the October 2020 ceasefire agreement remains a priority, and the work of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission is highly commendable. In addition, the full and immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces, fighters and mercenaries is a must for stability in Libya.

We welcome the resumption of oil production in the country. We believe that national wealth should be managed responsibly, in transparency, free of political interests, and serve the common good of the Libyan people. The National Oil Corporation should preserve its independence, function in an accountable manner

and contribute to Libya's stability and the prosperity of the Libyan people.

Let me end by reiterating Albania's full support for a substantive renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya. It would be a major miss for the Council if for the fifth time in a row we were not able to find a way to give a 12-month mandate to the Mission in supporting the Libyan people in their aspirations to the holding of elections and the establishment of democracy.

We commend the relentless efforts of the Secretary-General in appointing a new Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Libya, but there is no justification for the inability of the Council to provide UNSMIL with the resources necessary to help Libya overcome the daunting challenge that it faces, where the United Nations has a critical role to play.

When the Council is unable to do its part, any call for Libyan actors to do theirs may sound shallow. The contrary is needed.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Brazil.

Brazil thanks Assistant Secretary-General Martha Pobebe for her comprehensive and clear briefing. I also welcome the representative of Libya to this meeting.

Libya is at a critical juncture. We are deeply concerned about the clashes between armed groups in Tripoli last week and the related civilian casualties. We are also concerned about reports of arbitrary arrests and detentions earlier this month, following demonstrations protesting the deteriorating living conditions and calling for elections.

Brazil acknowledges the critical role that the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) has to play to preserve the country's fragile stability. We are thankful for the mediation efforts and good offices that UNSMIL has provided to the Libyan political actors, including during times when the Mission has had shorter mandates.

We acknowledge that despite a less-than-optimal provisional arrangement regarding the Mission's leadership since the departure of its last formal Head, UNSMIL has still been able to foster dialogue between the parties on a number of issues. Progress on the security track through dialogue within the 5+5 Joint Military Commission is but one example.

But as the Council examines the renewal of UNSMIL's mandate, there is also a need for further dialogue within the Council. A question we could ask is: how can we reinvigorate political dialogue in Libya, without foreign interference, and pave the way for a truly Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political settlement?

From our perspective, there are two important dynamics in Libya that the Council has the authority and responsibility to influence in a positive way.

One is UNSMIL's capacity to engage with the relevant actors. With the understanding that the Mission's mandate, one way or another, is going to be renewed in the coming days, Brazil considers that the appointment of an UNSMIL leader is key to its adequate functioning. We therefore call upon the Secretary-General and Council members to engage constructively in that endeavour, taking into account the fact that UNSMIL is a Mission created by the Council and therefore accountable to it.

The second dynamic that the Council could impact positively is the inclination of the Libyan political forces to engage among themselves. In a politically and institutionally fractured society, as Libya is today, fear of what comes next, after the elections, may be adding to the complex causes that have brought progress to a standstill. We urge the Libyan actors to agree on the outstanding issues regarding the organization of elections, and we have taken note of the Libyan constitutional track committee meetings held in Cairo and Geneva over the past months.

But we also believe that the Council could remind the parties that peacebuilding efforts will necessarily have to follow. In that regard, Brazil acknowledges the role that the Peacebuilding Commission can play in assisting countries' efforts to implement their peacebuilding priorities, mobilize international attention and promote the coordination and coherence of international assistance.

A final word concerns resources and assets management. The active management of Libyan assets frozen abroad has continued. We recall the conclusion reached by the Panel of Experts that such management is not allowed under paragraph 19 of resolution 1970 (2011).

Brazil also recalls that the Libyan people have sovereignty over the natural wealth and resources of

Libya and that that sovereign right must be exercised in the interest of national development and the well-being of all Libyans, without foreign interference.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I should like to draw the attention of speakers to paragraph 22 of presidential note S/2017/507, which encourages all participants in Council meetings to deliver their statements in five minutes or less, in line with the Security Council's commitment to making more effective use of open meetings.

I now give the floor to the representative of Libya.

Mr. Elsonni (Libya) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on presiding over the Security Council this month. I also thank Ms. Martha Pobe for her briefing on behalf of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya.

I will try to be brief in my statement. However, in order for the interpreters' team to properly convey my message, I will speak at a reasonable speed in order to allow for accurate interpretation.

Today's briefing is being held nearly a month after the most recent meeting of the Security Council on Libya (see S/PV.9078). During that period, everyone has witnessed a series of successive and accelerating events, whether local or international. Those events are unfortunate, and the tensions are part of the reality of the current political impasse and divisions.

The current situation could get out of hand at any moment unless radical solutions are found to the crisis, solutions that are free of foreign intervention and political manoeuvring. Those events recently included, unfortunately, the armed clashes in the capital, Tripoli, a few days ago, which terrorized the people and resulted in people killed and injured, including civilians, of whom many were children and women.

If it were not for the wise and effective intervention of the national leadership and of political, military or social leaders and their efforts to achieve calm, the situation would have escalated and worsened not only in Tripoli but also, evidently, in other cities and regions. We therefore commend all national leaders who have pledged not to be misled by any attempts at infighting among Libyans and have thus far managed to defuse the crisis, especially in the Western region.

Despite these meetings on Libya, which are held monthly, the Council suffers from paralysis because of its internal divisions. Even the briefings that we hear are repeated and lack effectiveness, as if they were news bulletins provided by various international radio stations, filled only with expressions of concern, condemnation and denunciation.

As my colleague, the Ambassador of Norway said, the Libyan people are fed up with these meetings and have lost hope in them. It is not just the Libyan people but also the peoples of the world who are fed up with such meetings, which do not lead to any effective results.

So far, since the beginning of the crisis in Libya more than 172 meetings have been held in the Security Council, and there have been 27 United Nations reports, 19 reports of the Panel of Experts and 23 reports of the International Criminal Court. What is the result? Nothing.

Apart from the series of sanctions that were issued against Libya and certain figures in 2011, have we heard of any sanctions against the countries or individuals that obstructed or violated Security Council resolutions? Have we heard of the results of the investigations of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya, the Human Rights Council or the International Criminal Court vis-à-vis violations or war crimes? No, we have heard nothing. So obviously, the whole matter was and continues to be politicized.

One of the most bizarre and contradictory things, for example, is the fact that the Libyans are asked to work on solutions that are Libyan-led and Libyan-owned, yet they must be under the auspices of the United Nations and the international community, since Libya is under Chapter VII because it represents a threat to international peace and security. So how can solutions be purely Libyan?

Given the events that have taken place since 2011, we honestly do not know if it is Libya that threatens international peace and security or if it is the countries intervening and fighting on its territory that are the source of that threat. The Libyan people were not afforded the opportunity to achieve national solutions without the stamp and approval of the international community.

The Security Council was not able to agree on any international solutions sponsored by the United Nations Mission. How can we see a solution under the Mission's leadership when for more than 10 months neither the

extension of the Mission nor the appointment of the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General have been subject of consensus? The new Special Representative of the Secretary-General would be the ninth Envoy in 11 years.

So what is the solution? I think it would be better after all these years to change the name and mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya to the international consensus mission on Libya.

As we have repeatedly pointed out, Libyan citizens are tired of the international fragmentation and endless internal conflicts that have directly affected their daily lives and the economic and security situation in the country. Earlier this month, we all witnessed diverse groups of young people and citizens taking to the streets in many Libyan cities, after having reached a state of despair and lost trust in everyone. They protested because they were fed up with all initiatives and manipulations. They protested because they were exhausted due to the deterioration of services and the spread of weapons and armed groups. They took to the streets against forced disappearances and silencing. They took to the streets calling for an end to the current stalemate and an end to all political bodies. They protested because they wanted to uphold the popular legitimacy through holding general elections resulting in certain stability, improving living conditions and essential services.

Hence today we need to communicate the voice of the people. The Council must listen to them seriously because it also bears moral responsibility for the current situation. Is it not true that the Council is supposed to sponsor a solution in Libya? The Council must listen to this voice, which speaks for the majority of the Libyan people and their overwhelming desire to end that nightmare and emerge from the cycle of conflict and never-ending crises.

Despite the positive efforts made and the hopes for consensus between the House of Representatives and the High Council of State on the constitutional path or the constitutional basis, after holding several meetings, the most recent of which was the meeting of the heads of the two Chambers in Geneva, they have not been able to reach a full and final consensus, although they agreed on most points. In that context, the Presidency Council has begun to communicate with the concerned parties to try to bring their views closer and reach the desired consensus. We call on all stakeholders to support those

efforts and to work to resolve points of contention so that the presidential and parliamentary elections can be held as soon as possible on a sound basis that expresses the hopes of all Libyans.

The consequences of international intervention and division include the tremendous challenges currently facing the Libyan economy as a result of the continued division of State institutions and the lack of comprehensive political solutions. The frequent closure of ports and oilfields is but one of the challenges that directly threaten the national economy and food security, especially given the current international crisis and the ensuing inflation and rise in the prices of basic goods and services.

Notwithstanding the recent and positive resumption of oil production and exports, it is necessary to look at the root of the problem and not to circumvent it by providing fabricated and unrealistic solutions, because Libyan citizens everywhere have the right to enjoy their wealth and to see its equitable distribution, free of the monopoly of certain people, of foreign interference and of attempts by some countries to control their livelihoods or impose their guardianship directly or indirectly upon them. The solution lies simply in supporting the will of the Libyans to establish a stable State and a constitution that defines the country's political and economic system along with a resource management and distribution mechanism that preserves the authority and sovereignty of the State.

The Libyan people remain optimistic about any meetings between the various Libyan parties, especially the role played by the 5+5 Joint Military Commission and the military leadership, which resumed meetings in a number of Libyan cities, the most recent of which was held in the capital, Tripoli. Those leaders confirmed that they are attempting to stay away from political disagreements and wish those meetings to be a starting point for establishing a unified military institution, a unified Libyan army under civilian leadership, the State's monopoly over arms and an end to all forms of foreign presence in Libya in all its forms and under any name.

It is therefore necessary to support those efforts to ensure success and to enhance confidence. It is also necessary to end the current political impasse and work to stabilize the economic situation so that all solutions on the political, security and economic tracks will

complement one another and come together to build the basis of a sovereign civil State.

In conclusion, we know that certain international forces fear the idea of elections in Libya because the results are not guaranteed, which would not serve their narrow interests. Clearly the international community is interested in three dossiers: first, ensuring continued oil production; secondly, preventing immigration to Europe; and, thirdly, combating terrorism.

Apart from that, what happens in Libya is of no concern to them. That is unfortunate, because the solution must start from within and not simply be imposed from outside. Hence we affirm once again that the solution to all the problems and challenges that are facing international peace and security, as is being claimed, including the presence of mercenaries and foreign forces; the proliferation of arms and militias; the problem of terrorism and its hotbeds and criminal networks, and the threat that poses to neighbouring countries and the countries of the region; the problem of migration and its humanitarian challenges; the problem of energy and its impact on the international arena — all those problems and others can, as we have mentioned repeatedly, be resolved by giving effective leadership and ownership to the Libyan people. A starting point would be to listen and respond to the voices of the citizens and the voices of laymen.

Nearly 3 million voters have made their position and demands clear. The people want legitimacy to be renewed, and they want to select their own leaders and representatives through elections. Libyan leaders should be chosen from within the Libyan people, who know that elections are a means and not an end. They are a beginning and an important step to bring about a unified, strong and stable State that would have control over all the Libyan territory. That can come about only by stopping blatant interference from many countries in our affairs and exporting crises to us. Leave the Libyans alone and let them agree on a constitutional path and unify their institutions in order to hold free and fair elections as soon as possible with broad political participation, without any exclusion, that would ensure the minimal national consensus.

Despite all those challenges, we have confidence in our people and youth. Libya will be come back strong and healthy, no matter how long it takes, because nothing stays forever.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I will now adjourn the meeting so that the Council can continue its discussion on the subject in closed consultations.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.