Letter dated 27 October 2020 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a copy of the agreement for a complete and permanent ceasefire in Libya signed on 23 October 2020 in Geneva by the representatives to the 5+5 Joint Military Commission of the Libyan Army of the Government of National Accord of the State of Libya and the Libyan National Army, General Command of the Armed Forces, in the presence of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).

In line with Security Council resolutions 2510 (2020), 2542 (2020) and other relevant resolutions, UNSMIL, under the leadership of my Acting Special Representative, Stephanie Williams, facilitated the intra-Libyan dialogue of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission, including the signing of the ceasefire agreement, in order to end armed hostilities for the benefit of the Libyan people.

By signing the 23 October agreement, the parties committed to a complete and permanent ceasefire in Libya with immediate effect. Under the agreement, all armed forces shall withdraw from confrontation lines and that all mercenaries and foreign fighters shall depart from the Libyan territory within three months. The parties agreed to form a limited joint military force to deter ceasefire violations and develop, in conjunction with UNSMIL, a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the agreement. The parties also agreed to a range of confidence-building measures.

As part of the agreement, the 5+5 Joint Military Commission recommended that the ceasefire agreement be transmitted to the Security Council, with a view to the Council adopting a resolution to ensure compliance and implementation of the agreement by all internal and external parties.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and the enclosed agreement to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) António Guterres
Agreement for a complete and permanent ceasefire in Libya between the Libyan Army of the Government of National Accord and the Libyan National Army of the General Command of the Armed Forces, signed below by their authorized representatives and witnessed by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)

Pursuant to United Nations mediation sponsored by the States participating in the Berlin Conference held on 19 January 2020, and their tireless efforts to put an end to the acts of violence and humanitarian crisis resulting from the ongoing armed conflict in Libya;

And with reference to United Nations Security Council resolution 2510 (2020), paragraphs 4 and 6, which call upon the 5+5 Joint Military Commission to reach agreement on a permanent ceasefire and upon the two parties to comply therewith,

The two parties hereby agree to the following:

I. General Principles

1. The territorial integrity of Libya shall be upheld and its land, air and sea borders protected.

2. National decision-making and the country’s resources shall not be allowed to be held hostage by any foreign power.

3. Combating terrorism is a common national policy which all State political and security institutions shall take part in implementing.

4. Human rights and the principles of international humanitarian law must be respected.

5. The provisions of this Agreement shall cover all of Libyan territory – land, sea and air.

II. Terms of the agreement

1. The 5+5 Joint Military Commission agrees on an immediate ceasefire, to enter into force upon signature of this agreement.

2. Military units and armed groups shall be withdrawn from all lines of contact and returned to their camps within three months of signature of the ceasefire. At the same time, all mercenaries and foreign fighters shall depart Libyan territory – air, land and sea. Until such time as a new unified Government assumes its functions, military agreements on training inside Libya shall be suspended and training teams shall depart. The security room established under this agreement shall be charged with proposing and implementing special security arrangements to secure the areas withdrawn from by military units and armed groups.

3. The 5+5 Joint Military Commission agrees to form a limited military force composed of regular military personnel operating under an operations room set up by the 5+5 Joint Military Commission to curb anticipated violations. Resources for that force’s operation shall be provided by all parties and actors.
4. The process of enumerating and classifying armed groups and entities of various designations throughout Libyan territory – whether affiliated with the State or not – shall commence immediately. Status reports shall be prepared on their leaders, membership, weapons and locations in preparation for disbanding them. A mechanism shall be set up and conditions established for the reintegrating into State institutions of those who meet the required conditions and specifications, on an individual basis and in accordance with the practical needs of each particular institution. Otherwise, opportunities and solutions will be created for those who do not meet the conditions or who do not wish to be reintegrated by a joint subcommittee, with the support and participation of UNSMIL.

5. An end will be brought to media escalation and hate speech disseminated by radio and television broadcast channels and electronic websites. The judicial authorities and other competent agencies shall be called upon to take the necessary measures to ensure diligent deterrent prosecution of such channels and websites. UNSMIL shall also call for measures to be taken to ensure that the parent companies of social media platforms take the necessary action with respect to the relevant websites. To that end, the Joint Military Commission has decided to establish a subcommittee to monitor hate speech and follow up on necessary measures in that regard. The Joint Military Commission has also decided to send a message directly to all radio and television broadcast channels asking them not to broadcast material that includes that type of speech.

6. The Joint Military Commission agrees to the opening of roads and land and air crossings throughout Libyan territory. Urgent measures shall be taken to open and secure the following roads:

   (a) The Benghazi-Sirte-Misratah-Tripoli coastal road;
   (b) The Misratah-Abu Qurayn-Jufrah-Sabha-Ghat road;
   (c) The Gharyan-Shuwayrif-Sabha-Murzuq road.

To that end, the 5+5 Joint Military Commission supports the proposals agreed on at the meeting of the committee on joint security arrangements held in Hurghada, Egypt, on 28 and 29 September 2020, which called for arrangements to ensure the safe passage of civilians, food convoys and humanitarian organizations along those routes through the following measures:

   • A joint security room shall be set up, headed by the police officers who took part in the Hurghada meetings, to propose and implement special security arrangements to ensure safe passage via the aforementioned roads and other roads throughout Libyan territory, including in the areas withdrawn from by military units and armed formations.
   • The 5+5 Joint Military Commission shall select the head of the operations room and his deputies and specify their duties.
   • Targeted roads shall be cleared of any military or armed forces as soon as the joint force assumes its tasks.
   • The command of the aforementioned force shall undertake to form the force charged with securing the roads on the basis of criteria of competence, experience and discipline that it shall establish.

7. The 5+5 Joint Military Commission agrees to charge the commander of the Petroleum Facilities Guard in the Western Region, the commander of the Petroleum Facilities Guard in the eastern region, and a representative of the National Oil Corporation to confer with each other and submit a proposal to the 5+5 Joint Military
Commission for restructuring and reorganizing the Petroleum Facilities Guard to ensure a continuous and undisturbed flow of oil.

8. An end will be put to arrest on the basis of identity or political affiliation. Prosecutions and arrests will be limited to wanted criminals, who will be remanded the proper authorities.

9. The Joint Military Commission agrees to take urgent measures to bring about exchanges of persons detained as a result of military operations or arrested because of their identity, through specialized committees formed from the relevant parties.

10. In the light of the prevailing positive atmosphere and factors conducive to complete confidence, the 5+5 Joint Military Commission, in conjunction with the UNSMIL team, will develop a mechanism to monitor implementation of this agreement.

11. This ceasefire shall not apply to any groups anywhere on Libyan territory that are classified as terrorist groups by the United Nations.

12. The 5+5 Joint Military Commission advises and urges UNSMIL to submit the ceasefire agreement signed by the Joint Military Commission to the Security Council with a view to the issuance of a resolution calling for compliance by all domestic and foreign parties.

This agreement was signed at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva on Friday, 23 October 2020, at 1100 hours.

Representatives of the Libyan Army

(Signed) Major General Ahmed Ali Abu Shahma
(Signed) Brigadier General Al-Mukhtar Milad Mohammed Nakkassa
(Signed) Brigadier General Al-Fitouri Khalifa Salem
(Signed) Colonel Mustafa Ali Mohammed Yahya
(Signed) Colonel Radwan Ibrahim Mohammed Al-Gharari

Representatives of the Libyan National Army/General Command

(Signed) Major General Emraja’a Emhammed Mohammed Al-Ammami
(Signed) Major General Faraj El-Mabrouk Abdul Ghani Al-Soussa’a
(Signed) Major General Attiya Awadh Mohamed Al-Sharif
(Signed) Staff Major General Engineer Al-Hadi Hasan Ahmed Al-Falah
(Signed) Major General Khairi Khalifa Omar Al-Timimi

Witnesses

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

(Signed) Stephanie Williams, Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNSMIL
(Signed) Salim Raad, Head of Security Institutions Division, UNSMIL
(Signed) Ayed Alhamad Khalayleh, Senior Police Advisor, UNSMIL
(Signed) Ali Kilkal, Security Institutions Division, UNMSIL