



# Security Council

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## United Nations Support Mission in Libya

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to Security Council resolutions [2510 \(2020\)](#), [2542 \(2020\)](#), [2570 \(2021\)](#) and [2647 \(2022\)](#), covers political, security and economic developments in Libya. It provides an overview of the human rights and humanitarian situation in the country and the activities of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) since the issuance of the previous report ([S/2022/409](#)) on 20 May 2022.

#### II. Political and security-related developments

2. During the reporting period, the United Nations continued to support the House of Representatives and the High State Council to reach agreement on a consensual constitutional framework for national elections. Following previous rounds held in April and May, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Libya, Stephanie Williams, and UNSMIL facilitated a third round of talks of the joint committee, comprising delegations from the House and the Council, in Cairo in June, aimed at reaching agreement on a constitutional framework for elections.

3. From 28 to 30 June, the Special Adviser convened the heads of the two chambers for a high-level meeting at the United Nations Office at Geneva to review the outcome of the Cairo talks and reach consensus on several outstanding provisions of the draft constitution of 2017. Unfortunately, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aguila Saleh Issa, and the President of the High State Council, Khaled Mishri, were unable to agree on one outstanding issue, namely the eligibility criteria for presidential candidates. In a statement issued at the end of the meeting, the Special Adviser urged the two chambers to overcome the pending disagreement as soon as possible and reiterated the readiness of the United Nations to provide good offices in that regard.

4. The ongoing political crisis between Abdulhamid Al Dabiba and Fathi Bashagha over the leadership of the executive branch became further entrenched. The High State Council was unable to convene owing to divisions between members supporting the Government of National Unity of Mr. Al Dabiba and those supporting Mr. Bashagha. There was an increase in clashes between armed groups supporting either party in and around Tripoli.



5. On 24 June, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America issued a joint statement urging Libyan political leaders “to unlock the executive impasse and agree on a pathway to elections”. Both Mr. Al Dabiba and Mr. Bashagha welcomed the statement, although each interpreted it as supporting his respective claim to be the legitimate leader of the executive.

6. In a sign of growing popular frustration with the political impasse, demonstrations were held in several cities across Libya on 1 July, including in Tripoli. In Tubruq, protesters forced their way into the premises of the House of Representatives and caused damage to the building. The protesters voiced their criticism of the existing political bodies and their failure to conduct elections, resolve the electricity crisis, address fuel shortages and mitigate the increasing prices of basic commodities. In a statement on 2 July, the Secretary-General called upon protesters to avoid acts of violence and upon all Libyan actors to refrain from actions that could undermine stability. He further urged Libyan leaders to overcome the political deadlock that was deepening divisions and negatively affecting the country’s economy and stressed the need to build upon the considerable progress achieved during talks in Cairo and Geneva convened under the auspices of the United Nations.

7. On 31 July, the Special Adviser concluded her assignment. On 1 August, the Secretary-General issued a statement to thank the Special Adviser for her service and dedication, recognizing her remarkable ability to foster conditions conducive to dialogue and consensus among all stakeholders, which had led to key achievements in the political, security and economic dialogue tracks.

#### **A. Implementation of the intra-Libyan dialogue tracks**

8. Regarding the political track, United Nations efforts continued to focus on enabling the holding of credible, transparent and inclusive elections as soon as possible on the basis of an agreed constitutional framework in order to realize the aspirations of over 2.8 million Libyans who had registered to vote. The Special Adviser, supported by UNSMIL, continued to lead good offices and mediation efforts to maintain the momentum in the intra-Libyan political, security-related and economic dialogue tracks. She also continued to hold broad consultations on the constitutional framework for elections and the way forward for the electoral process with a wide spectrum of national stakeholders, including representatives of national and municipal institutions, political parties and security actors, as well as with parliamentary and presidential candidates.

9. On 8 June, the Special Adviser discussed plans for the third round of talks of the joint committee, composed of representatives of the House of Representatives and the High State Council, with Mr. Issa, in Al Qubbah, and the Mr. Mishri, in Tripoli. In a telephone conversation with the Special Adviser on 11 June, the President of the Presidency Council expressed the Council’s full support for United Nations-facilitated efforts to reach agreement on a constitutional basis for elections, stressing the importance of fulfilling the will of Libyans to elect their representatives.

10. On 20 June, the third and final round of talks concluded in Cairo. Throughout the talks, representatives of the two chambers demonstrated an unprecedented level of cooperation. They reached agreement on critical elements of the constitutional architecture, including the establishment of a bicameral legislature and the distribution of seats for the two legislative chambers; the division of responsibility among the President, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet and local government; the specific form of decentralization, including the delineation of the number of governorates and their powers; and the definition of a mechanism for natural resource distribution at all levels of governance. However, agreement was not reached on transitional measures

governing the period leading to national elections, therefore requiring further consultations. The Special Adviser thus called on the leadership of the two chambers to meet within 10 days to bridge the outstanding gaps. On 23 June, Mr. Issa and the Mr. Mishri accepted the Special Adviser's invitation to meet in Geneva.

11. From 28 to 30 June, the United Nations facilitated the constitutional track of a high-level meeting on Libya, held in Geneva, between Mr. Issa and Mr. Mishri. The leaders of the two chambers expressed support for the outcome of the Cairo talks and charted a road map, with timelines and a series of steps leading to the holding of national elections. However, the leadership of the two chambers was unable to agree on one final matter, namely the eligibility requirements for candidates in the first transitional presidential elections.

12. With regard to the economic track, UNSMIL continued to support efforts to advance the reform and reunification of the Central Bank of Libya and to promote transparency in public expenditure, as well as reliable funding for the priority needs of the Libyan people. An international consulting firm continued to provide technical assistance to implement the recommendations issued in 2021 following the United Nations-facilitated international audit for the reform and reunification of the Bank.

13. On 14 and 15 June, the House of Representatives met in Sirte to deliberate on a budget proposal presented by Mr. Bashagha. The spokesperson for the House of Representatives later announced that the budget proposal had been adopted with 103 votes in favour, including 5 votes submitted electronically. Independent verification of the vote, which took place in a closed session, was not possible. Some members of the House of Representatives who did not attend the session questioned the reported number of participants in the session and the use of electronic voting. On 16 June, the Government of National Unity of Mr. Al Dabiba rejected the decision of the House of Representatives, by which the budget submitted by Mr. Bashagha was approved, and reiterated that it would only transfer power to a new elected government.

14. On 14 July, Mr. Al Dabiba announced the appointment of a new Chair and Board of Directors of the National Oil Corporation, replacing the long-serving Mustafa Sanalla with Farhat Bengdara, who had served as Governor of the Central Bank from 2006 to 2011. Mr. Sanalla legally challenged the decision. On 15 July, the newly appointed Chair announced the reopening of the oil fields and oil ports that had been closed since 16 April and had cost the country \$4 billion in lost revenue.

15. Concerning the security track, the Government of Spain and the Toledo International Centre for Peace, with the assistance of UNSMIL, organized a technical workshop on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration with Libyan and international actors. The meeting was held in Toledo, Spain, on 23 and 24 May. At the event, the Special Adviser underlined the need to restore the State monopoly over the country's security forces. Participants agreed on the need to coordinate and implement the preparatory phase of a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme in Libya. On the margins of the workshop, the Special Adviser and UNSMIL facilitated the first joint meeting of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission since the eastern members of the Commission had suspended their participation in April over delays in the payment of Libyan National Army salaries by the Government of National Unity ([S/2022/409](#), paras. 28 and 29).

16. UNSMIL continued to support the 5+5 Joint Military Commission in the implementation of the ceasefire agreement of October 2020 and the operationalization of the action plan for a gradual, balanced and sequenced process of withdrawal of mercenaries, foreign fighters and foreign forces from Libyan territory. As agreed by the Commission, the clearance of mines and improvised explosive devices required for the reopening of the southern road between Abu Qurayn and Jufrah began along the western part of the road to allow the free movement of peoples and merchandise.

In addition, UNSMIL and the Mine Action Service continued to support the clearance of mines and improvised explosive devices along the eastern part of the road, in coordination with the Commission's mine action subcommittee. As at 5 August, 100 km of road had been cleared. Further coordination with the Libyan National Army Command is needed in order to complete the remaining clearance work on the road.

17. On 16 June, the Chiefs of General Staff of the Libyan Army and of the Libyan National Army, Lieutenant General Mohammed al-Haddad and General Mohammed Nadhoury respectively, met in Cairo, together with the 5+5 Joint Military Commission and the Special Adviser. Lieutenant General al-Haddad welcomed United Nations efforts to facilitate agreement between the House of Representatives and the High State Council on a constitutional basis for elections. The two sides also agreed to resume meetings of the Commission and between the heads of the military from both sides on Libyan soil. The Special Adviser also facilitated a meeting of the Commission with the joint committee of the House of Representatives and the High State Council, in Cairo on 16 June, to address the remaining challenges to the reunification of the armed forces and the full implementation of the ceasefire agreement.

## **B. International Follow-up Committee on Libya of the Berlin process**

18. The International Follow-up Committee on Libya of the Berlin process and its working groups continued to serve as the overall framework for international support for the intra-Libyan dialogue tracks.

19. On 7 June, the security working group, co-chaired by the United Nations, France, Italy, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the African Union, met with the 5+5 Joint Military Commission in Tunis to discuss steps for proceeding with the operationalization of the action plan for a gradual, balanced and sequenced withdrawal of mercenaries, foreign fighters and foreign forces. The security working group also declared its intention to support the implementation of a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, as envisaged in article 4 of the ceasefire agreement, once security conditions permitted it.

20. In a statement made on 16 June, the Co-Chairs of the international humanitarian law and human rights working group (the United Nations, the Netherlands and Switzerland) called upon the Human Rights Council to extend the mandate of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya so as to enable it to continue its critical work to advance human rights, sustainable peace and rights-based national reconciliation. On behalf of the Co-Chairs of the working group, UNSMIL convened three rounds of dialogue with civil society actors and human rights defenders on human rights challenges, on 7, 12 and 21 June. According to the participants, the main obstacles to advancing human rights were the political divide and constitutional challenges; armed groups and militias and the proliferation of weapons; the lack of accountability for human rights violations against Libyans, migrants and asylum-seekers; attacks on the freedom of expression and association; and violence against women.

21. The economic working group, co-chaired by the United Nations, Egypt, the European Union and the United States, sought the views of relevant Libyan institutions on the parameters of a possible short-term financing mechanism to fund, in a consensual and transparent manner, critical priorities and needs, including with regard to the National Oil Corporation. The Co-Chairs met in Tunis, on 26 May, to discuss the modalities for the establishment and operationalization of such a funding mechanism. Subsequently, draft terms of reference for a proposed Libyan special committee for oversight were circulated by the United States for consideration by senior Libyan officials of the House of Representatives Finance Committee, the Presidency Council, the Ministry of Finance, the Audit Bureau and the Administrative Control Authority, as well as the other Co-Chairs of the working group.

### **C. International and regional engagement**

22. During the reporting period, the Special Adviser and UNSMIL held regular consultations with regional and international stakeholders, both in Libya and abroad, on the three intra-Libyan dialogue tracks. The Special Adviser and UNSMIL participated upon request in meetings organized by Member States to provide briefings on the developments in Libya and updates on the status of United Nations mediation efforts.

23. On 1 June, the Special Adviser, together with the Assistant Secretary-General and Mission Coordinator of UNSMIL and the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Libya, gave briefings to representatives of the international diplomatic community. On 9 and 10 June, the Special Adviser visited Algeria for meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and senior officials on the Libyan political process and progress made on the constitutional track. On 22 June, the Special Adviser met, in Oslo, with the Norwegian and German Special Representatives for Libya to discuss the next steps regarding the constitutional track.

24. From 22 to 24 June, an African Union delegation headed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Congo, Jean-Claude Gakosso, representing the Chairperson of the African Union High-level Committee on Libya, visited Libya and met with senior Libyan officials, as well as with UNSMIL. The delegation presented a proposal for national reconciliation grounded in the principles of Libyan ownership and inclusiveness.

25. On 5 July, the Special Adviser travelled to Paris where she met with the French Special Envoy for Libya and senior officials. On 21 July, the Special Adviser travelled to Istanbul, Türkiye, to discuss the progress made on the constitutional track during a gathering of Member States organized by Türkiye.

### **D. Situation in the western region**

26. Continued political divisions contributed to a volatile security environment in Tripoli and across western Libya, including as a result of demonstrations of support by security actors for Mr. Al Dabiba or Mr. Bashagha, and in response to Mr. Bashagha's attempt to enter Tripoli on 17 May. In Tripoli, there was an increased number of intermittent clashes between armed groups, as well as sporadic shootings, including in densely populated areas.

27. On 26 May, a large convoy of Zintani forces supportive of Mr. Bashagha moved from Aziziyah to military camps south of Tripoli. In a statement issued that day, the Ministry of Defence denounced "attempts to mobilize the military for a war driven by a partisan political agenda". In addition, forces affiliated with the Government of National Unity strengthened their positions in central Tripoli, as well as in Tarhunah and Bani Walid.

28. On 9 June, one fighter was reportedly killed and two civilians injured in armed clashes in central Tripoli between members of the Nawasi Brigade and elements affiliated to the Stability Support Apparatus. In a statement issued on 10 June, UNSMIL called upon political and security actors to exercise maximum restraint. On 22 June, four armed elements and one civilian were reportedly killed in clashes between the Special Deterrence Force and the Stability Support Apparatus in central Tripoli.

29. At the end of June, tensions among security actors spiked amid discussions among political actors on the continued validity of the road map of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum and the legitimacy of the Government of National Unity. On 19 and 20 June, Zintani forces based in southern Tripoli were further reinforced

by military units from Zintan and Aziziyah. The show of force was triggered by Mr. Al Dabiba's dismissal of Western Military Commander, General Osama al-Juwaili, from his position as the head of military intelligence in the aftermath of the Mr. Bashagha's attempt to enter Tripoli on 17 May. In an apparent deterrence measure, forces loyal to the Government of National Unity were deployed around the premises of Mr. Al Dabiba's office. On 21 June, the Ministry of Defence announced a state of emergency in the capital city.

30. Following a statement made by Mr. Bashagha on 9 July, in which he announced that his cabinet would begin operating from Tripoli, a series of military movements and mobilizations were reported in the capital city and the level of alert was again raised among the armed forces in western Libya. On 13 July, several commanders of armed groups gathered in Martyrs' Square in Tripoli and read a joint statement, warning that the security of Tripoli was "a red line" and that they would confront any military forces attempting to "cause chaos" in the capital. The commanders further rejected a new political transition phase and called for elections as the only solution to the political crisis.

#### **E. Situation in the eastern region**

31. On 11 June, during a gathering in Suluq, south-east of Benghazi, tribal elders issued a communiqué calling for the removal of "all institutions whose term has expired" and the simultaneous conduct of presidential and parliamentary elections by the end of 2022.

32. As part of the demonstrations that occurred across Libya on 1 July, demonstrators in Tubruq stormed the premises of the House of Representatives, demanding the chamber's dissolution while causing damage and setting fire to the building.

#### **F. Situation in the southern region**

33. Following armed clashes in Chad near the border with Libya from 23 to 27 May, the Libyan National Army intensified its counter-terrorism operations, with additional units being deployed near the border to limit the impact on Libyan territory of the fighting on the Chadian side. On 1 June, the Army stated that reinforcements had been sent to Qatrun and Murzuq to prevent the infiltration of terrorists or criminals into Libya; however, the increased military presence triggered tensions with some members of the Tebu tribe. To defuse any potential feud with local Tebu elements, local Tebu military components were eventually incorporated into the Libyan National Army and assigned the task of border security patrols.

#### **G. Violent extremist organizations**

34. On 30 May, the Libyan National Army announced the capture of alleged Da'esh Commander, Abu Muaz al-Tashani, south of Qatrun. During the same operation, an unspecified number of Da'esh elements were also reportedly killed.

35. On 18 June, the 444 Brigade reported the arrest of alleged Da'esh Commander, Mustafa Bin Della, in Bani Walid.

#### **H. Economic situation**

36. UNSMIL continued to work with Libyan stakeholders and international interlocutors to identify ways to improve transparency and facilitate the flow of

funding from the escrow account of the National Oil Corporation to the Central Bank for the payment of salaries and other key government expenditures amid sharp increases in the prices of basic commodities and shortages of electricity and fuel.

37. On 15 June, the House of Representatives reportedly approved the 89 billion Libyan dinar (\$18.3 billion) budget proposal submitted by Mr. Bashagha. The vote was contested by some members of the House and other Libyan actors on procedural grounds (see paragraph 13 above).

38. The partial shutdown of the oil sector that began on 16 April and that resulted in the curtailment of oil production and related port closures, reduced Libyan oil exports by two thirds and cost the country nearly \$4 billion in lost oil revenues. In addition, the disagreements over the control and use of public funds that had triggered the partial shutdown continued.

39. A heatwave in late June overburdened the country's power grid, leading to power outages lasting as long as 10 to 12 hours at a time across the country. Protests erupted over the outages and the perceived inequity in their duration, culminating in country-wide demonstrations, held on 1 July, demanding elections and responsive service delivery.

40. On 15 July, the force majeure was lifted on all the oil fields and ports affected by the shutdown of 16 April. Oil production resumed incrementally and, on 19 July, oil began to be loaded at previously closed ports. By 17 August, oil production had risen to 1.2 million daily barrels from 860,000 on 5 July. The resumption of oil production has provided much needed relief to a population that has experienced intermittent power cuts of long duration, an increase in the prices of basic food items and goods, and inadequate basic services.

### **III. Other Mission activities**

#### **A. Electoral support**

41. The UNSMIL-led integrated electoral team continued to provide technical support and advice to the High National Elections Commission. On 26 June, the Chair of the Commission indicated his readiness to conduct an electoral process, be it a general election or a referendum. The Commission estimated that it would require approximately 10 weeks to conduct a constitutional referendum following receipt of a new referendum law and draft constitution from the House of Representatives.

42. The process of reviewing the existing digital voter registry, which has some 2.8 million voters, continued throughout the reporting period. To improve the credibility of the registry, the High National Elections Commission considered new technical measures and a new public information campaign.

43. The UNSMIL-led integrated electoral team also worked on initiatives to counter misinformation and hate speech during electoral processes, with a special emphasis on protecting the participation of women candidates.

#### **B. Human rights, transitional justice and rule of law**

44. Electricity and fuel shortages, rising food prices and deteriorating living conditions significantly affected Libyans' access to basic services, including water and sanitation, food, health care and education. UNSMIL received reports of a 1-year-old girl who died in a Tripoli medical facility on 29 June because of a lack of oxygen caused by prolonged power outages. There were also reports of a man operating a

small generator in the streets of Benghazi, on 25 June, in order to power an oxygen machine to enable his son to breathe. Power cuts affected the distribution of 6,000 doses of essential medicines requiring cold storage, such as insulin, and vital surgeries were cancelled. The country's water supply systems were also affected, leading to an increase in cases of disease.

45. Restrictions on civic space deepened during the reporting period. During the protests on 1 and 2 July, UNSMIL monitored reports of the enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention of dozens of individuals, including minors, who peacefully demonstrated and observed a sharp increase in hate speech and incitement to violence on social media against civil society organizations and rights advocates, in particular women activists, accusing them of contravening Libyan values.

46. On 23 July, the Ministry of Health confirmed that 16 civilians, including four children, had been killed and 52 civilians had been injured during clashes in Tripoli from 21 to 22 July. In addition, the judicial police confirmed that one corrections officer at the Judaydah prison, in Tripoli, had been killed on 22 July when the prison was attacked during the armed clashes.

## **1. Rule of law**

47. On 22 May, the Chief Military Prosecutor and Head of the Antiterrorism Unit, Mansour Da'oub, was arrested by the Special Deterrence Force and transferred to Mitiga prison without access to a legal defence or to his family. According to the Attorney General, the Public Prosecution Service did not issue a warrant for his arrest.

48. From 22 to 25 May, UNSMIL, in cooperation with the Public Prosecution Service of Egypt, held a first training seminar for Libyan public prosecutors, in Cairo, to enhance investigation capacity to address corruption, terrorism, money laundering, trafficking in persons and organized crime.

49. On 27 May, the Supreme Judicial Council concluded the election of its 15 new members for a three-year term, ending tensions and divisions that arose after the adoption by the House of Representatives of Law No. 11 of 2021, pursuant to which the President of the Supreme Court was removed as head of the Supreme Judicial Council. Under the Law, the Head of the Judicial Inspection Department is the ex officio President and the Attorney General is the Vice-President of the Supreme Judicial Council. The other members of the Supreme Judicial Council are the heads of the Law Department, Public Lawyers Department and the State Litigation Department, as well as the Presidents of the country's 10 high courts of appeal, who are elected by the General Assembly of each court.

50. On 23 June, the General Assembly of the Supreme Court met and renewed its decision not to reactivate the Constitutional Chamber, an outcome that poses potential risks for further political division and the deterioration of judicial independence. During the same session, the Assembly agreed to extend the term of the Chief Justice Mohammed El-Hafi for five years.

51. On 8 June, 6 July and 3 August, UNSMIL observed court hearings concerning four arbitrarily detained members of the civil society organization Tanweer Movement. UNSMIL considered that the hearings failed to meet basic fair trial standards; the case was adjourned to 7 September. UNSMIL continued to advocate with Libyan authorities to ensure that fair trial standards were followed and to bring about the release of the arbitrarily detained Tanweer Movement members or their transfer to a facility operated by the judicial police to enable access to their families and lawyers.

52. UNSMIL continued to receive concerning reports of harassment of and restrictions and violence against lawyers, including the arbitrary arrest of Ibrahim

Ghaniya on 18 July by the Deterrence Apparatus for Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism and the assault of Abdullah Ali Farahat on 19 July in a Tripoli court by the same group. In the past six months, three other lawyers have been assaulted, arbitrarily arrested and detained. In response to the two most recent attacks, the Libyan Bar Association organized a general strike on 24 July.

## **2. Unlawful deprivation of liberty, detention and torture**

53. Although most security agencies and armed groups refrained from intervening in the protests that occurred on 1 and 2 July (see paragraph 6 above), several protesters were reportedly arrested by armed groups and detained in unknown locations. In Tubruq, 18 young men and 1 woman were arrested and arbitrarily detained on 3 July by the eastern branch of the Internal Security Agency. The men were referred to the prosecution office and the woman was transferred to the Rajmah facility and subsequently released. The arrest and detention of individuals continued during the month of July. According to credible sources, four men were arrested and arbitrarily detained in Tubruq by armed groups on 9 July. Some 35 other people allegedly detained in Tubruq in connection with the protests were transferred to Benghazi.

54. In Judaydah prison in Tripoli, 34 women and 41 children allegedly associated with Da'esh remained arbitrarily detained. Most of the children have spent their entire lives in detention, with limited or no access to education, health care or recreational activities. UNSMIL continued to advocate access to due process and justice for those held arbitrarily on account of their alleged association with Da'esh.

55. Conflict-related sexual violence continued to be reported, including as documented in the report of the Panel of Experts on Libya of 4 May ([S/2022/427](#)), in which instances of the rape and sexual slavery of two girls in a secret detention facility in Bani Walid were reported. Similarly, according to the third report of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya ([A/HRC/50/63](#)), consistent evidence of men and women detainees being threatened with sexual violence against them or their relatives was collected. Threats of rape or other sexual violence during interrogation were also documented, along with instances of sexualized torture.

## **3. Migrants and refugees**

56. As at 30 June, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported 667,400 migrants in Libya, an increase of 17,600 migrants compared with the previous reporting period, suggesting a return to the migration dynamics previous to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Migrants and refugees continued to endure widespread human rights violations and faced serious humanitarian and protection concerns in Libya.

57. On 5 June, the Zuwarah municipal council declared that the activities of all international organizations working with migrants contradicted the city's policies on illegal migration and demanded that they leave the city immediately. The municipal council and security services further prohibited non-Libyans from engaging in economic activities in the municipality. On 13 July, local security forces in Zuwarah carried out a mass arrest and detention of migrants and refugees. IOM reported 35,975 migrants in the municipality.

58. As at 17 July, the number of people attempting to cross the Mediterranean remained high, with 12,063 individuals, including 769 women and 437 minors, having been intercepted and returned to Libya by the Libyan Coast Guard. An additional 777 people were reported to be dead or missing.

59. As at 10 July, the number of migrants and refugees arbitrarily detained in government detention centres stood at 2,661, of whom 951 (35 per cent) were

classified as potential persons of concern to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. UNSMIL, United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners continued to be denied access to official and unofficial detention centres, including the Maya detention centre in Tripoli, operated by the Stability Support Apparatus, where more than 2,600 migrants and refugees reportedly remained arbitrarily detained in inhumane and degrading conditions. Serious concerns remained over the fates of several thousand other people intercepted at sea and detained in Libya by a range of State and non-State armed actors, amounting to 11,230 individuals disembarked in 129 operations in 2022, as at 31 July.

60. The United Nations continued to receive reports of acts of violence in detention centres against migrant and refugee children, who represented 18 per cent of the detainee population, in violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In the report of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya ([A/HRC/50/63](#)), patterns of sexual violence against migrants by traffickers and smugglers, as well as by State officials in detention centres, were described. Cases of rape were documented in places of detention or captivity, with migrant women forced to resort to transactional sex in exchange for food or other essential items.

61. During Eid al-Adha, UNSMIL observed a wave of arbitrary arrests and the targeting of migrants celebrating the holiday in Misratah, Sabratah, Tripoli, Zuwarah and Zawiyah in western Libya. A radio station in Zawiyah broadcasted hate speech against migrants.

62. Humanitarian evacuation and resettlement flights continued during the reporting period. According to the United Nations country team in Libya, on 30 June, 95 vulnerable asylum-seekers were evacuated to Italy on the second flight to that country in 2022. The country team further indicated that, since 2017, 8,482 migrants and refugees have departed Libya (5,849 on evacuation flights to Italy, the Niger and Rwanda; 2,590 on resettlement flights; and 43 individuals on complementary pathways).

#### **4. Groups in vulnerable situations**

63. According to the latest figures provided by IOM, 159,996 individuals (34,432 families) were registered as internally displaced persons, indicating a decrease of 10,000 displaced persons since the start of the year. The number of returnees increased to 680,772 (136,155 families), with the majority returning to their places of origin owing to improved security conditions. Internally displaced persons nonetheless remained vulnerable.

64. On 30 May, armed actors entered the last remaining camp for internally displaced persons from Tawurgah, in Tripoli, at Dawaa Islamiya University, and gave residents 24 hours' notice of eviction. The incident followed the previous forced evictions of two camps for internally displaced persons on 3 May. The majority of the families were scattered across Tripoli and none were provided with alternative housing. On 15 June, around 90 internally displaced families living in the Kiklah buildings in Tariq al-Matar in Tripoli were warned by members of the Stability Support Apparatus-affiliated Abu Salim Central Security Force to evacuate the buildings within 10 days. The armed group appeared with bulldozers in a show of force and to strike fear among the residents.

65. On 31 May, one child was killed and at least five other children aged between 2 and 8 years old were injured in Benghazi following random celebratory shooting during a graduation ceremony at the Tukrah Military College.

## **5. Transitional justice and rights-based reconciliation**

66. On 14 June, the Tripoli Appeals Court referred to the military justice system the case of the Abu Salim prison massacre of 29 June 1996, in which an estimated 1,200 inmates were killed after alleged disobedience and rioting. In the first judgment, issued in December 2020, the defendants had been acquitted on the basis of the statute of limitations. In May 2021, the Supreme Court had rejected that initial verdict, asserting that crimes against humanity were not subject to a statute of limitations. Only 2 of the 86 defendants are currently in prison; the others have either been released, are outside the country or have died. It is expected that the decision of the Tripoli Appeals Court will again be appealed to the Supreme Court.

67. On 23 June, the Presidency Council launched its strategic vision for the national reconciliation project at an event in Tripoli, where statements were made by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the High State Council, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Chairperson of the African Union. Libyan civil society actors and representatives of the diplomatic community also participated in the event. The strategic vision document contained measures aimed at restructuring the High National Reconciliation Commission, holding national discussions and seminars across the country, submitting a bill on national reconciliation to the House of Representatives and holding a national conference, to be convened by the Presidency Council.

68. On 12 July, a preparatory meeting under the auspices of the Chairperson of the African Union High-level Committee on Libya was held in the Congo, attended by representatives of the Presidency Council, the House of Representatives and members of a delegation of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi. The Resident Coordinator in Congo represented the United Nations. During the meeting, participants reaffirmed their support for the strategic vision for the national reconciliation project, which was based on guiding principles, and agreed that the High-level Committee would facilitate a meeting on national reconciliation in Tripoli in the coming months and that the Presidency Council would convene an inter-Libyan national reconciliation conference later in 2022.

## **6. Human rights due diligence policy**

69. The United Nations system in Libya continued to implement the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support for non-United Nations security forces (see [A/67/775-S/2013/110](#), annex), with a view to preventing and mitigating the identified risks of grave violations of international humanitarian law, human rights law or refugee law by Libyan security forces receiving United Nations support.

70. UNSMIL and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights organized a workshop in Tunis, from 26 to 30 June, on the implementation of the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces in Libya. Modalities for incident reporting and vetting were developed and will be shared with the Libyan authorities.

## **C. Security sector**

### **1. Support for Libyan planning for interim security arrangements and the unification of security forces**

71. The first phase of the Policing and Security Joint Programme, in which capacity-building was provided to the Ministries of the Interior and Justice, was completed in June 2022, with the second phase expected to be launched in October. The first phase

included initiatives such as the model police station, community policing and the standard operating procedure for the judicial police.

## **2. Arms and ammunition management**

72. The Mine Action Service completed the training component of a project to strengthen the capacity of the Libyan diplomatic police to mitigate and respond to the threat posed by explosive hazards to the international diplomatic community. The project provided over 300 officers with essential operational and emergency medical skills and included a strong train-the-trainer component so as to strengthen the sustainability of the initiative. The Service's efforts to provide the diplomatic police with non-lethal operational equipment, including explosive hazard detection gear and medical kits, remain ongoing. It also coordinated with the Libyan Mine Action Centre on the implementation of a new humanitarian mine action clearance project to protect the population from the threat of explosive ordnance in priority areas, reduce casualties among civilians and address the longer-term consequences of explosive contamination.

73. During the reporting period, mine action organizations safely destroyed 25 tons of unexploded ordnance in Benghazi and Misratah.

## **3. Implementation of the ceasefire agreement**

74. UNSMIL continued its efforts towards the establishment of an effective Libyan ceasefire monitoring mechanism able to coordinate, monitor and assess progress on the withdrawal of foreign forces, foreign fighters and mercenaries. With the aim of supporting Libyan efforts to implement the ceasefire agreement, de-escalate tensions and build mutual trust among relevant Libyan actors and communities, UNSMIL supported the development by Libyan counterparts of four documents on the implementation of the ceasefire agreement, including (a) a concept note and terms of reference for a joint operations room in Sirte; (b) operational procedures for the withdrawal of foreign forces, foreign fighters and mercenaries; (c) capacity-building programmes for the Libyan authorities charged with monitoring the ceasefire agreement; and (d) terms of reference for the Libyan monitors, with a focus on monitoring the withdrawal of foreign forces, foreign fighters and mercenaries.

75. On 8 June, UNSMIL facilitated a plenary meeting of the security working group of the International Follow-up Committee on Libya, held in Tunis, in which members of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission participated in person. In addition, eight Libyan ceasefire monitors held simultaneous side meetings with UNSMIL monitors for the first time. A second meeting of the Libyan ceasefire monitors and UNSMIL was held in Tunis, on 27 and 28 June, during which participants focused on the methodology for establishing an effective Libyan ceasefire monitoring mechanism.

76. On 9 August, the 5+5 Joint Military Commission and UNSMIL met in Sirte, with the participation of the eight Libyan ceasefire monitors and representatives of Commission's subcommittees. They reviewed the readiness of the Libyan ceasefire monitoring mechanism, proceeded to activate a joint operations room in Sirte and finalized the modalities for the planned withdrawal of foreign forces, foreign fighters and mercenaries from Libya.

## **D. Empowerment of women**

77. UNSMIL continued to advocate at all levels the inclusion of women in political processes and decision-making bodies. During the final round of talks between the House of Representatives and the High State Council, held in Cairo, UNSMIL worked with the delegations to promote the inclusion of a 30 per cent quota for women as a

permanent provision of the electoral law and the constitutional framework. Both chambers agreed to endorse a 25 per cent quota for women to be applied to all future electoral processes. UNSMIL welcomed that commitment and offered to provide technical assistance and expertise on how best to translate it into implementable legislation.

78. UNSMIL continued to monitor instances of hate speech and incitement against women participating in public life. The Mission continued to actively advocate the rights of women and condemn all acts of violence, including online hate speech and vilification. In the context of the international humanitarian law and human rights working group, UNSMIL also continued to advocate women's rights and inclusion through events, meetings and statements and to provide technical support to relevant stakeholders to ensure the meaningful inclusion of women in the intra-Libyan dialogue processes.

79. During the Eid al-Adha holidays, there was a sharp increase in reported incidents of violence against women across Libya, resulting in the death of at least seven women, including one girl, in Ayn Zarah, Benghazi and Gharyan. The Ministry of State for Women's Affairs condemned the murders, and more than 65 Libyan women rights activists launched a petition calling for an end to the killing of women.

## **E. Youth and peace and security**

80. Young people and youth movements were at the forefront of the civil protests that began on 1 July, denouncing poor living conditions and the political crisis and calling for an end to violence against protestors, arbitrary arrests and detentions, hate speech and incitement to violence on social media. Protesters called for the restoration of access to basic services, the holding of national elections, the removal of the two competing executive authorities and the exit from Libya of all foreign forces and mercenaries. They also demanded a reduction in bread prices and a solution to the electricity and fuel crisis.

## **F. Coordination of international assistance**

81. By early July, humanitarian organizations had reached 179,000 persons (45 per cent of the 400,000 persons targeted in the humanitarian response plan for 2022) with some form of humanitarian assistance. An additional 434,000 persons were assisted with activities outside the scope of the humanitarian response plan, including with food aid, core and essential non-food items, water, sanitation and health supplies. Health officials warned that nationwide shortages of general vaccines against measles, mumps and rubella, the bivalent oral polio vaccine and the vaccine effective against tuberculosis put Libya at risk of serious outbreaks of preventable diseases. To help address the shortfall, the United Nations Children's Fund donated 500,000 doses of the polio vaccine.

82. In line with global trends, the number of COVID-19 cases decreased, with no new deaths having been recorded since the end of May. The country's COVID-19 community transmission rate was downgraded to "low incidence". As at 27 July, the National Centre for Disease Control reported 504,060 cumulative COVID-19 cases, including 6,431 deaths and 1,639 active cases. A total of 2.3 million people have received a first dose of the vaccination, while 1.2 million have received two doses and 139,514 people three doses. A National Centre for Disease Control and IOM vaccination campaign aimed at migrants and refugees, including those in detention centres, provided 12,981 individuals with one dose, 3,304 with two doses and 641

with a third dose. In addition, some 15,153 people participated in awareness-raising sessions on COVID-19.

## **G. Humanitarian, stabilization and development assistance**

83. On 25 May, the humanitarian country team published the review of the first quarter of humanitarian programming, which helped to shape the revision of the humanitarian response plan published in June. With funding requirements of \$113.8 million, the revised plan is aimed at reaching 400,000 people most in need of targeted assistance.

84. On 7 June, the Minister of Planning and the Assistant Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Libya signed a new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the period 2023 to 2025. The Cooperation Framework is composed of four pillars on peace and governance, sustainable economic development, social and human capital development, and climate change, environment and water. Given the decreasing humanitarian needs, the two collective outcomes of the Framework support the transition from humanitarian to development programming. The Framework also serves as an integrated strategic framework, reflecting the mandated priorities of UNSMIL and aligned with Security Council resolutions on Libya.

## **IV. Deployment of the Mission and security arrangements**

85. The United Nations maintained an average presence of around 130 international staff members in Libya, allowing for continued engagement with Libyan interlocutors on the political, security and economic tracks, and the provision of assistance and advice on international human rights law and humanitarian law, and on humanitarian and development issues. International staff in Tripoli continued to be accommodated at the Oea compound, protected by the United Nations Guard Unit with a troop strength of 234. In Benghazi, international staff continued to operate from the United Nations hub and national staff worked on a rotational basis.

86. The United Nations in Libya regularly reviewed and adjusted applicable COVID-19 protection and prevention measures, including on all United Nations flights, on the basis of evolving advice from the World Health Organization and UNSMIL medical staff and to ensure alignment with measures put in place by the Libyan and Tunisian authorities. As at 11 July, under the COVID-19 vaccination programme for United Nations personnel in Libya and international non-governmental organization partners, 1,359 individuals had been fully vaccinated and 240 had received a third dose. An additional booster dose was expected to arrive in September.

87. During the reporting period, UNSMIL initiated preparations for the next rotation of the United Nations Guard Unit, currently scheduled for February 2023.

## **V. Observations and recommendations**

88. The protracted political stalemate continued to negatively affect the security environment in Libya, as demonstrated by the increased number of clashes among and between armed groups and the country-wide demonstrations on 1 July. I reiterate my call for Libyan political actors and institutions to exercise responsible leadership to prevent long-held grievances from escalating into further instability.

89. National elections, based on a sound and consensual constitutional framework, are what the Libyan people have demanded and are what they deserve. The outcomes of the talks in Cairo and Geneva represent significant progress that should be built upon by all parties. An agreement on a constitutional framework for the holding of elections is within reach and I urge the relevant Libyan institutions to finalize the framework and clear the way for elections to be held without further delay. I commend the High National Elections Commission for its preparedness, in concert with the relevant Libyan institutions, to allow all Libyans to make their voices heard through the ballot box.

90. It is of utmost importance to safeguard the progress achieved on the security track since the signing of the ceasefire agreement in October 2020. I commend the work of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission in working tirelessly to that effect. I welcome the mutual engagement and joint efforts of the Chiefs of General Staff of the Libyan Army and of the Libyan National Army and encourage further practical steps towards the unification of the armed forces and preparations for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. Moreover, I call upon all actors to refrain from any action that might inflame the situation and bring the country back to conflict.

91. The United Nations will continue to support the 5+5 Joint Military Commission to implement all the terms of the ceasefire agreement, including the implementation of the action plan for a gradual, balanced and sequenced process for the withdrawal of mercenaries, foreign fighters and foreign forces. The United Nations also remains committed to supporting the work of Libyan ceasefire monitors in establishing a monitoring mechanism based in Sirte.

92. I welcome the end of the oil production shutdowns that began in April 2022. The natural wealth of Libya belongs to all Libyans and should not be held hostage to political wrangling. The independence of the country's sovereign economic and financial institutions, including the National Oil Corporation and the Central Bank, must be respected and preserved. Acts aimed at hindering the exploitation of natural resources, their legal exportation and the equitable use of revenues derived from their sale are reprehensible and should be prosecuted.

93. Concerns about the deteriorating living conditions of Libyans in all parts of the country, exacerbated by the oil production shutdowns, are linked to the lack of access to basic services that are fundamental human rights. The lack of access to adequate food, health care, water and sanitation, and education must not remain a driver of tension and conflict that prolongs and further entrenches the political deadlock. I urge the relevant Libyan institutions to prioritize arrangements that ensure reliable funding for the priority needs of the Libyan people and to ensure transparency in public expenditure.

94. I welcome the progress made thus far towards the reunification and reform of key financial institutions. These efforts must be allowed to continue. Visible progress in these areas will build confidence in the economy and is necessary to advance the political and security tracks. In the same vein, the disbursement of public salaries in a timely and equitable manner throughout the country and access to basic services are provisions that no Libyan should have to go without.

95. The situation of migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and arbitrarily detained persons remains of grave concern. I call upon the Libyan authorities to release all persons who have been arbitrarily detained and to ensure unimpeded humanitarian access to all populations in need of assistance, irrespective of their legal status.

96. I would like to thank regional organizations, including the African Union, the European Union and the League of Arab States, and Member States for their

continued support to ensure the democratic outcomes and bright future that Libyans so deserve. Their support continues to be integral to advancing Libyan-led and Libyan-owned dialogue processes, including on national reconciliation. It is equally important that the international community speak with one voice so as not to contribute to divisions and fragmentations in Libya. The unity of the Security Council also remains crucial to encourage the Libyan parties in the right direction at this critical juncture.

97. I would also like to thank UNSMIL staff, the Mission leadership and the United Nations system for their efforts. I commend the Special Adviser for her tireless efforts and dedication in leading United Nations good offices and mediation in Libya. I reiterate my gratitude to the United Nations Guard Unit in Libya, generously provided by the Government of Nepal.

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