

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 26 March 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the briefing provided by Mr. Ján Kubiš, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, as well as the statements delivered by the representatives of Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, the Niger, Norway, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Viet Nam in connection with the video-teleconference on “The situation in Libya” convened on Wednesday, 24 March 2021. A statement was also delivered by the representatives of Libya.

In accordance with the procedure set out in the letter by the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Council dated 7 May 2020 (S/2020/372), which was agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, this briefing and these statements will be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Linda **Thomas-Greenfield**
President of the Security Council



Annex I

Statement by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Ján Kubiš

I am grateful for this opportunity to update the Security Council on the situation in Libya in my first briefing to the Council in my new capacity.

Following the selection, on 5 February, by the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) of the new interim executive authority to govern Libya for the period leading up to national elections set for 24 December, the House of Representatives, on 10 March, overwhelmingly endorsed the Government of National Unity proposed by Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Mohammed Dbeibah. More than 130 members gathered in Sirte for the House of Representatives session, which was a historic political milestone in itself, after years of paralysis and internal divisions.

The new Cabinet of 35 members reflects the various Libyan regions and constituencies. While women make up only 15 per cent, Prime Minister Dbeibah pledged to appoint more women to other senior executive positions so as to reach the commitment of 30 per cent, as set out in the LPDF road map. Currently, the key position of Minister of Defence is vacant and managed by Prime Minister Dbeibah.

The House of Representatives reconvened again in Tobruk on 15 March for the solemn swearing-in ceremony of the new Government, with the attendance of the new President of the Presidency Council, Mohamed Younis Al-Menfi, along with his two deputies, Musa Al-Koni and Abdullah Hussein El-Lafi, who previously swore an oath before the Chief Justice. The following day, the outgoing Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord of President Serraj completed the transfer of power to the new Presidency Council and the Government of National Unity during a cordial handover ceremony at the seat of Government in Tripoli. Key messages during the swearing-in ceremony included calls for reconciliation, reuniting the country, the protection of human rights, meeting the basic needs of the people and freeing Libya from foreign forces and foreign interference.

This manifestation of the emerging political will for unification after years of internal strife and conflict is, first and foremost, a result of Libyan dialogue and Libyan decisions grounded in the wishes of the people to finally end the divisions and confrontations of the transition period in order to reclaim their country and reinstate its unity and sovereignty. The role of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) has been one of good offices and facilitation, supported by the Berlin process and other international partners. I recognize the immense contribution of former Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General Stephanie Williams and her team in setting up the UNSMIL-facilitated intra-Libyan political Dialogue Process — the LPDF.

I would also like to commend the supporting role of Libya's international partners, especially regional actors and neighbouring countries — notably Egypt and Morocco — which facilitated the various supporting tracks between the High Council of State and the House of Representatives. On 17 March, the Tunisian President, His Excellency Mr. Kaïs Saïed, arrived in Libya — the first visit in recent years by a foreign Head of State.

These developments represent a trend and momentum that must not be lost. Moving forward, we all need to assist and encourage the new executive authority, the House of Representatives and the High Council of State, to pursue an inclusive political process, to fulfil the objectives set by the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum and to maintain momentum on all intra-Libyan tracks. These entities need to continue working in a mutually reinforcing manner. It is up to the Libyan leaders to

demonstrate the will to honour the pledges and commitments under the LPDF road map that correspond to the will of the Libyan people. They will need the continued, timely and aligned support of the Security Council and the international community.

UNSMIL embraces the key priorities identified by the interim executive authority and Prime Minister Dbeibah and stands ready to support them. These include reunifying the country and its sovereign institutions; advancing the full implementation of the ceasefire agreement; security sector reform; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; delivering basic services to Libyans on the basis of a decentralized system; addressing the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; fostering human-rights-based inclusive national reconciliation and transitional justice; advancing women's political and economic empowerment; and delivering the national elections on 24 December.

There is broad and strong support in the country, increasingly among the young population, for holding inclusive elections on 24 December. That should remain a key focus for the new interim executive authority and State institutions. For the polls to take place, it is critical to confirm a clear legal and constitutional framework for the presidential and parliamentary elections. To that end, the Constitutional Committee, established by the House of Representatives and the High Council of State, reached an agreement on 12 February regarding a proposed constitutional basis for the elections.

That agreement highlights a referendum on the constitutional proposal adopted in 2017. Alternatively, if a referendum on the draft permanent constitution is not possible based on a decision by the High National Elections Commission, which is then endorsed by the House of Representatives and the High Council of State, presidential and legislative elections would take place on the basis of an amendment to the constitutional declaration, emanating from the so-called February Committee 2014 report. The latter scenario envisions the election of a House of Representatives by general, free, secret and direct suffrage, in accordance with an electoral law promulgated by the House of Representatives, with the agreement of the High Council of State, and a Head of State elected by universal, free and direct suffrage and by an absolute majority of the votes cast on the same election date as the House of Representatives, in accordance with a law promulgated by the House of Representatives, with the agreement of the High Council of State.

The agreement has been adopted by the High Council of the State but has yet to be considered by the House of Representatives — an urgently needed task. Additionally, it is imperative to start working, without any further delay, on the election laws. In that regard, the observation of the Chairperson of the High National Elections Commission — that the necessary legislation for elections needs to be adopted by 31 July, at the latest, for the elections to be possible in December — is worth noting.

In parallel and in line with the LPDF's mandate, the Forum's Legal Committee started deliberations and formulated proposals that could serve as a fallback framework in the event that persistent divisions within the House of Representatives prevent it from reaching a timely decision that will enable the holding of elections on 24 December.

The continued functioning of the House, building on the current momentum and positive dynamics, will be of the utmost importance for completing the vital next tasks, including the adoption of the budget, the electoral laws and other relevant legislation that is needed to conclude this interim phase.

The Government of National Unity has a distinct role in building a conducive political and security environment for elections and in facilitating the work of the High National Elections Commission through the various related ministries and

Government institutions. It is important that the Government ensure the timely disbursement of sufficient funds for the Commission.

The Libyan electoral authorities are making commendable efforts to hold municipal council elections despite COVID-19 and a precarious security environment. Following municipal elections in January and February, six new municipal councils took office in western Libya, including in Tripoli. The remaining elections will be organized after Ramadan. The United Nations in Libya will continue its work to strengthen the capacity of democratically elected municipal councils to provide services, build social cohesion and improve the lives of vulnerable populations.

With the security assurances of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission, the holding of the House of Representatives session in Sirte was a catalyst for the repositioning of foreign fighters and mercenaries in and around Sirte, which enabled the reopening of Ghardabiya airbase for the arrival of the members of the House of Representatives. However, those fighters remain in the country and, indeed, in the vicinity of the city. Their withdrawal from Libya will go a long way in restoring the unity and sovereignty of the country and healing the deep wounds caused by many years of internal strife, active conflict and foreign interference. Libyans of all stripes and across the political spectrum are vehemently calling for all mercenaries and foreign forces to leave the country — a call supported by the Libyan authorities and institutions.

The reopening of the coastal road remains a critical step for the steady and sustainable — if gradual — implementation of the ceasefire agreement. Significant progress has been made on clearing explosive remnants of war from the coastal road connecting Misrata with eastern Libya, with the technical advice and support of UNSMIL and the United Nations Mine Action Service. During their last meeting in Sirte on 15 March, the 5+5 Joint Military Commission agreed to open the road in two weeks.

On 3 March, the Secretariat deployed an advance team to Libya to assess possible United Nations support for the Libyan-led ceasefire monitoring mechanism. Preliminary findings were shared with the Council in the progress report issued on 22 March (see S/2021/281). While the advance team's work has yet to be finalized, a number of prerequisites are coming to the fore. These include national leadership and ownership of the implementation of the 23 October 2020 ceasefire agreement; continued momentum on the security track, working in harmony with the political, economic and humanitarian tracks; and the timely provision of the necessary additional financial and human resources to establish security, logistical and operational support to United Nations ceasefire monitors, who will enable their deployment.

It is essential that the ceasefire implementation take into account the impact on civilians, the restoration of essential services, access to markets and freedom of safe movement. For that reason, among others, the team of monitors must be balanced and include women and young people.

While the ceasefire agreement continues to hold, there are reports of ongoing fortifications and the setting up of defensive positions along the Sirte-Jufrah axis in central Libya, as well as of the continuous presence of foreign assets and elements. Elements of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and other international terrorist groups continue to operate in the country. It is important to continue to support the authorities in order to address this ongoing threat, take action to counter international terrorism and fight unlawful armed groups and organized crime networks plaguing the country. This is critical for the stability of Libya and the Sahel. It is encouraging to note that the Government of National Unity, despite its limited nine-month mandate, has shown its resolve to initiate the unification of Libya's military and

security institutions, as well as to undertake the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of various armed groups and militias and to embark upon security sector reform.

Since 2014, Libya has either had no budget or two parallel budgets. On 17 March, the Finance Committee of the House of Representatives announced that it had received the Government of National Unity's draft budget proposal of 96 billion Libyan dinars, coming at a time when the country had just undertaken its first steep devaluation of the dinar. It included a 20 per cent salary increase for State employees, previously approved by the Presidency Council. It also included 1.4 billion dinars to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and 100 million dinars for the High National Elections Commission.

This is a positive example of restoring the normal processes of Government and of reunified State institutions fulfilling their constitutional roles, including the legislative and oversight roles of the unified Parliament.

I welcome the announcement by the National Oil Corporation that oil revenue held in abeyance is now being transferred to the Central Bank.

The country will face an acute electricity crisis this summer, and there are risks to its water security as well. United Nations agencies estimate that more than 4 million people, including 1.5 million children, may not have access to clean water and sanitation if immediate solutions are not found and implemented.

As the primary source of revenue and the largest employer, the oil sector also requires continued support and investment. Libya carries over 160 billion dinars of debt and billions more in outstanding contractual liabilities.

I was encouraged to hear from Prime Minister Dbeibah that the Libyan authorities will operate in a way that will establish high standards of good governance, competency, responsibility, transparency and accountability, while fighting corruption and mismanagement.

Although the ceasefire has resulted in a dramatic reduction in civilian casualties, UNSMIL continues to document killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detentions, attacks against activists and human rights defenders, hate crimes and sexual violence, including rape. Freedom of expression is being undermined. Various armed groups continue to operate without obstruction, and human rights violations continue with almost total impunity. It is also essential that internally displaced people be able to return to their homes and that those displaced outside of Libya consider it safe to return to their country.

Following the deeply disturbing discovery of new mass graves in Tarhouna earlier this year, now reaching a total of 101, the security situation remains unstable, and tensions are high and compounded by a lack of justice and accountability. It is worth noting that, on 22 March, the European Council imposed sanctions on leading members of the Al-Kaniyat militia. I am encouraged by the announcement by Prime Minister Dbeibah, on Friday, of an investigation on the reported discovery of several bodies in Benghazi.

Arbitrary detentions remain a critical concern. There are more than 8,850 people arbitrarily detained at 28 official prisons in Libya, in the custody of the judicial police, with an estimated 60 to 70 per cent in pretrial detention. In addition, some 10,000 people are being held in detention centres under the authority of militias and armed groups. It is estimated that the detainees include around 480 women — of which, reportedly, 184 are non-Libyans and 63 are juveniles and children. UNSMIL continues to receive credible reports of arbitrary and unlawful detention, torture, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, denial of visits from families and lawyers and lack of access to justice.

Continuing humanitarian needs in Libya must not be overlooked, and the civic space must be strengthened. An estimated 38,000 displaced persons returned to their homes since the end of January, but returns remain limited owing to a lack of basic services and the presence of explosive hazards, especially in southern parts of Tripoli.

The impact of COVID-19 continues to make life extremely challenging for many of the country's most vulnerable people. As of 21 March, some 150,300 confirmed cases had been reported, including 2,487 fatalities. On a positive note, the national deployment plan for COVID-19 vaccinations has been finalized, with the support of UNICEF and the World Health Organization.

Currently, only 5 per cent of the 2021 humanitarian response plan — some \$10 million out of a total \$189 million — is funded. I encourage States Members of the United Nations to contribute funding to assist some 450,000 vulnerable people in need.

While their numbers remain low as compared to the total migrant population in Libya, the number of migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean increased during the first two months of 2021 and remains steady, exposing them to protection risks and death. From 20 to 28 February, an estimated 56 people drowned during attempted crossings. Increasing numbers of migrants and refugees — currently some 3,858 — are being detained in extremely poor conditions, without due process and with restrictions on humanitarian access, in official detention centres run by the Department for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM). UNSMIL is concerned about serious human rights violations being committed against migrants and asylum seekers by DCIM personnel and armed groups involved in human trafficking.

Since taking up my responsibilities in early February, a succession of achievements by Libyan stakeholders has demonstrated that once seemingly insurmountable divisions can be overcome with determined political will and receptivity to the demands and aspirations of the Libyan people. As we consider how best to support the new interim executive authority in making progress on its priorities, we should be mindful of the pitfalls on the road ahead, in particular those that might cause delay or obstruct the path towards the December elections.

In conclusion, I am pleased to report that, in the two months since the new UNSMIL leadership took up its functions, with Military Coordinator Raisedon Zenenga and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Georgette Gagnon on the ground, the Mission has returned to the country and the United Nations presence in Libya has doubled. As of 16 March, there are 112 international United Nations staff — working either for UNSMIL or for United Nations agencies, funds and programmes — in Tripoli and Benghazi. The United Nations presence on the ground will be critical in supporting the priorities of the Government of National Unity. For this to happen — for it to be able to implement even its currently mandated objectives and tasks — UNSMIL will require adequate resources and the ability to recruit staff to fill numerous vacant positions, including in security.

Annex II**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations, Sven Jürgenson**

I thank Special Envoy Ján Kubiš for his briefing. I would like to express Estonia's full support for the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).

We welcome the latest developments in Libya's political process. The formation of a new interim authority is a step towards stability. This will allow starting the preparations for elections in December. It is important to ensure an inclusive process that involves all voices, especially those of women and youth. In that regard, it shows promise that five seats in the new Cabinet are held by women.

We are encouraged by the continuation of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission meetings and their contacts with UNSMIL and the security working group of the international follow-up committee for Libya. We stress the importance of the full implementation of the Libyan ceasefire agreement, including ending all foreign interference, removing foreign fighters and opening the coastal road.

The Libyan parties have clearly expressed their vision for achieving peace, and the international community must respect it. We call on all those involved to put an immediate end to the blatant violations of the Libyan sanctions regime and withdraw all foreign fighters and mercenaries from Libya. All actions that violate the Libyan arms embargo must stop immediately.

We welcome the efforts of the European Union Naval Force Mediterranean Operation IRINI in support of the implementation of the Security Council arms embargo. Operation IRINI acts strictly under authorization from the Security Council, is impartial in its activities and offers an important contribution to the implementation of the sanctions regime.

Estonia supports the establishment of a credible, realistic and effective ceasefire-monitoring mechanism that acts under United Nations auspices. We welcome the initial meeting between the United Nations advance team for preparing the ceasefire mechanism and the 5+5 Commission. We also thank the Secretary-General for his progress report on ceasefire-monitoring in Libya and the recommendations made therein (see S/2021/281). It is now important to move forward with practical arrangements in order to allow UNSMIL's monitoring component to become operational.

Concrete steps need to be taken to further build trust between the Libyan parties and in Libyan society. That includes thoroughly investigating all alleged human rights violations, mass killings, torture, enforced disappearances and ensuring justice for victims. It is important to root out the culture of impunity and focus on accountability. These actions are essential to achieving sustainable peace, security and reconciliation. To support this aim, the European Union recently decided to impose targeted sanctions on two individuals responsible for gross human rights violations and abuses in Libya.

We remain concerned about the humanitarian situation on the ground. The disruptions to water and electricity supplies, the extremely dire situation and the constant exposure to violence that migrants and asylum seekers endure are of great concern. We call on the authorities to pay close attention to these issues and to take concrete steps to alleviate the suffering of civilians.

It is important to note that the political process under the umbrella of the United Nations and the Berlin process remains the only acceptable international framework to support Libyans in achieving a lasting peace.

Annex III**Statement by the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, Nicolas de Rivière**

[Original: French]

I would like to warmly thank Ján Kubiš for his briefing and reiterate France's full support.

In the coming weeks and months, we have an opportunity to achieve a lasting peace in Libya. Significant progress has been made in recent months, thanks in particular to United Nations mediation, but after 10 years of bloody conflict we can no longer fail.

The Security Council recently welcomed the vote of confidence by Parliament to establish the transitional Government of National Unity that will be responsible for leading the country to elections on 24 December 2021. This deadline must be met. The United Nations must provide expertise and assistance to ensure that these elections are held. An agreement must be reached that provides a legal basis for them.

France welcomes the progress made in the participation of women in the exercise of power. The December elections will, I hope, offer an opportunity to go further.

To enable the Libyan people to freely choose their representatives, it is essential that the ceasefire be guaranteed for the long term. In relation to this aspect of security, I would like to stress four points.

First, the Security Council must respond to the Libyans' request and without further delay adopt a draft resolution authorizing the United Nations Support Mission in Libya to deploy a credible ceasefire-monitoring mechanism. The proposals by the Secretary-General, complemented by the Special Envoy following the deployment of the advance assessment team, will enable us to move forward quickly. It is essential that the confidence-building measures provided for in the agreement meet with immediate success. This will be an important first task for the monitoring mechanism. In that regard, I would mention in particular the reopening of all roads, including the coastal road.

Secondly, the foreign forces and mercenaries present in Libya must withdraw without further delay, as requested by the Libyan parties. The Libyans had set a deadline of 90 days, but more than 150 days have now elapsed since this request was made.

Thirdly, the flow of arms into Libya must stop, and the arms embargo must be fully respected. The final report of the Panel of Experts (see S/2021/229) is a cause for great concern. I would recall that the European Union is making its full contribution to stability in Libya, with the deployment of the European Union Naval Force Mediterranean Operation IRINI, which is acting impartially and in compliance with Security Council resolutions. We call on flag States to act in accordance with resolution 2292 (2016), and therefore to cooperate with Operation IRINI.

Fourthly, militias must be disarmed as part of a process of demobilization, disarmament and reintegration into a unified Libyan army. The 23 October agreement offers important prospects in that regard.

In the longer term, peacebuilding requires that two major challenges be addressed. First, there must be a fair distribution of economic resources for the benefit of all. In the immediate term, it is essential that an agreement be reached on key posts, with a view to unifying Libyan institutions. The fight against impunity must also continue to be pursued, and those responsible for violations of human

rights and international humanitarian law must be punished. France is ready to fight human trafficking in Libya, which has involved many refugees and migrants.

Together with Germany, France has proposed that the trafficker from Zawiya, Osama Al-Kuni Ibrahim, be subject to sanctions. It is urgent that the Security Council proceed with such sanctions. France is ready to propose other individuals or entities guilty of human trafficking for the sanctions list.

France is readier and more committed to peace in Libya than it has ever been. It will continue to work tirelessly with its European partners to that end. As announced by the President of the Republic, France will reopen its Embassy in Tripoli next Monday.

Annex IV**Statement by the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, T.S. Tirumurti**

Let me begin by thanking Special Envoy Ján Kubiš for his briefing. I also welcome the Permanent Representative of Libya, Mr. Taher Elsonni, to today's meeting.

The developments in recent months towards the implementation of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) road map and the ceasefire agreement have heightened expectations in Libya, and rightly so. The elections for the Presidency Council and the Prime Minister, the formation of a new Cabinet and the endorsement of the Government of National Unity at the reunified session of the House of Representatives in Sirte earlier this month have the potential to help Libya turn a new page in the decade-long conflict in the country. We welcome these positive and encouraging developments.

It is also encouraging to note that the Libyan ceasefire agreement has by and large held, even though the calls by the Security Council for the withdrawal of foreign fighters and mercenaries have not been heeded. The newly formed Government of National Unity has enormous challenges ahead, including the convening of elections by the end of the year. Overall, the current situation provides reasons to be cautiously optimistic for Libya in the days ahead.

Ten years since the crisis in Libya started unfolding, we are now presented with a unique opportunity for the country to return to peace and stability in line with the aspirations and wishes of the Libyan people. The Council's task in further advancing the political process is an important one. In this context, let me underline the following observations.

First, we would like to reiterate that a peaceful settlement through inclusive and broad-based dialogue and consultations, taking into account the legitimate concerns and aspirations of all stakeholders in Libya, is the only way forward. The current pace of implementation of the LPDF road map must continue unhindered. It is pertinent to mention here that the timely adoption of electoral legislation by the constitutional bodies in Libya is vital for the electoral process. We look forward to working with other Council members and with Libya to ensure that the elections are conducted smoothly, in a fair and transparent manner, by December 2021. The international community must be prepared to provide any assistance that Libya might need in the process.

Secondly, the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Libya need to be safeguarded. The peace process must therefore be fully Libyan-led and Libyan-owned, with no imposition or external interference.

Thirdly, the importance of the 23 October ceasefire agreement cannot be overstated. The international community and the Security Council should ensure its full implementation. India supports the role of the United Nations in implementing the Libyan ceasefire-monitoring mechanism as requested by the Libyan parties. We have seen the report of the Secretary-General on proposals for amending UNSMIL's mandate with regard to the ceasefire-monitoring mechanism (see S/2021/281). We are currently studying the report and will work with other Council members on the way forward.

Fourthly, it is a matter of serious concern that, despite the clear provisions in the ceasefire agreement and repeated calls by the Security Council, foreign fighters and mercenaries continue to be present on Libyan territory. It is imperative that these fighters depart from Libya so that the peace process can move forward

without external interference. We should not allow “spoilers” — foreign countries that interfere, as well as mercenaries and foreign fighters — to hinder the country’s progress towards peace and stability.

Fifthly, the final report of the Panel of Experts (see S/2021/229) makes it clear that the sanctions provisions are being blatantly violated, especially those related to the arms embargo. These violations pose a serious threat to peace and stability in Libya. We have also expressed our strong concerns with regard to news articles and speculation in the media that reflect some of the contents of the final report. Such unauthorized disclosures undermine the credibility of the sanctions regime. The Security Council also needs to look at options to address the issue of the management of frozen funds.

Sixthly, we must ensure that terrorist forces and organizations are not allowed to rise again in Libya, since this may lead to a cascading effect throughout the region. The international community must speak in one voice against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

India has enjoyed close and mutually beneficial relations with Libya, which have been driven by India’s public- and private-sector companies contributing to the Libyan economy. The strong presence of the Indian diaspora has also contributed to Libyan society. The steel plant, power stations, transmission lines and oil pipelines built by Indian companies are positively contributing to the Libyan economy to this day. The presence of Indian professionals in critical sectors such as oil, steel manufacturing, education and health has helped Libyan society and its economy overcome the difficulties of past international isolation. We therefore wish to see peace and stability return to Libya. India remains committed to supporting Libya and the Libyan people in their endeavour to bring about lasting peace in the country. To this end, we look forward to working with the Government of National Unity for providing capacity building and training assistance to the Libyan Government officials and people in mutually identified areas.

Annex V**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, Geraldine Byrne Nason**

Thank you very much indeed Madam President, and I want to also say welcome and thank you to Special Envoy Ján Kubiš for his briefing this morning.

The endorsement of the Government of National Unity by the House of Representatives on 10 March was indeed a welcome step towards unified institutions and national reconciliation.

Ireland welcomes the historical political milestone — as Ján Kubiš called it this morning — the Government's formal swearing in on 15 March, as well as its firm commitment to holding inclusive elections on 24 December. We hope to see the new Government accord the highest priority to preparations for those free and fair national presidential and parliamentary elections.

Ireland and its European Union (EU) partners are ready to assist in whatever way we can.

We wish Prime Minister Dbeibah, his Government and the Presidency Council well. We commend former President Serraj for his leadership and his facilitation of a smooth transition of power.

The new Government now must work together to provide improved basic services, especially health care and the provision of electricity. This will demonstrate to the Libyan people themselves that they will be directly benefitting from political change.

Ireland welcomes the appointment of women to senior ministerial positions. We hope that the 30-per cent target set out by the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum will be achieved at the earliest opportunity. As women delegates themselves to the Forum have said, we must ensure that political participation by women is empowered and effective, as well as full, equal and meaningful.

Ireland urges the Libyan Government to restructure and to activate the Women's Empowerment Unit and also to ensure that it is adequately staffed and resourced.

Ireland also encourages the Libyan Government to facilitate a safe operating environment for all of civil society to undertake its crucial work freely and effectively.

I want to thank the Secretary-General and his team for the report on the ceasefire monitoring preparations (S/2021/281), which we know now must be a Libyan-led process. We welcome the openness to have monitors from the EU and other regional organizations.

We urge further confidence-building measures, including the reopening of the coastal road from Sirte and the creation of conditions for the safe and effective deployment of the monitoring mechanism itself around Sirte.

The Council should ensure that the proposed ceasefire monitoring arrangements fully integrate a gender perspective, and we encourage continued dialogue with women's organizations on that point.

Ireland reiterates the need for effective implementation of all provisions of the 23 October ceasefire agreement, in particular the immediate withdrawal of all foreign fighters and mercenaries.

I welcome the publication last week of the report of the Panel of Experts on Libya established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1973 (2011) (S/2021/229), and in this context reiterate our call for an end to breaches of the United Nations arms embargo.

As acknowledged by the Panel of Experts, the EU European Union military operation in the Mediterranean (Operation IRINI) has provided support to the Panel's investigations. Operation IRINI works impartially, and in accordance with the relevant resolutions of this Council.

Ireland calls for further progress on the human rights track. The Council should highlight the need for accountability, including in respect of the massacres at Tarhouna, as well as credibly documented work by human rights organizations and the Government of National Accord. Ireland strongly supports the work of the United Nations Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya and welcomes the willingness expressed by the Libyan government to engage and cooperate with the Fact-Finding Mission.

The Council should condemn threats, attacks and killings of women leaders, including women human rights defenders.

My country shares concerns about the continued detention of migrants at unofficial centres and urges further action by the Libyan authorities. We also urge access to these centres for international humanitarian organizations. We call on the Libyan authorities to put in place measures to protect and assist detainees who have suffered or are at risk of sexual and gender-based violence, including by transferring women detainees to facilities with sufficient female guards.

The Council should also urge the Libyan authorities to adopt anti-trafficking legislation and, with the support of the United Nations, we can work to strengthen Libyan rule of law institutions to ensure that allegations of sexual and gender-based violence can be effectively investigated and prosecuted.

In conclusion, I want to say that this is a time of hope and expectation for the Libyan people. We have faith in their commitment to traveling on the difficult path to a peaceful future for all Libyans. We stand ready to do all in our power to support the people of Libya in arriving at that well-deserved destination, as Ján Kubiš said this morning, with determined political will and receptivity to the desires of the Libyan people themselves.

Annex VI**Statement by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, Michael Kiboino**

The Kenya delegation thanks Mr. Ján Kubiš, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), for his briefing. We congratulate him, this being the first time he is briefing the Council since taking up office, and assure him of our support and cooperation. I also welcome the participation of the Permanent Representative of Libya, Taher Elsonni, in this meeting.

The milestones we celebrate today would not have been achieved without the resilience of and strong push by the people of Libya. Therefore, Kenya commends the people of Libya for their abiding commitment to peace in their country.

We congratulate them for the establishment of a Government of National Unity. We welcome the fact that it reflects a significant development in the representation of women in high-profile portfolios, including the foreign affairs and justice ministries.

The newly established Government bears on its shoulders the responsibility to pursue the aspirations of the Libyan people, as spelled out by Prime Minister Abdul Dbeibah, including the delivery of national elections slated for 24 December, the restoration of services in all parts of Libya, ensuring the departure of foreign fighters and mercenaries, the revival of the economy and national reconciliation.

Kenya commends Ms. Stephanie Williams, former Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General, as well as all stakeholders — including neighbouring countries, particularly Tunisia — for the roles they played in helping the Libya peace process reach where it is today.

To protect these gains and sustain the current momentum, it is important, that the Security Council continue to speak in a strong, unified voice in support of the peace process. The presidential statements of February and March were timely. We believe that a stronger voice within a resolution would send a resounding message to the stakeholders to stay the course of the Libya-led and Libya-owned peace process.

Even as we celebrate the positive developments, Kenya remains concerned about the continued presence of foreign fighters and mercenaries, who are not adding value to the quest for peace and stability of Libya and the region. We therefore continue to call for their exit, in line with the ceasefire agreement of 23 October 2020.

One of the risks associated with foreign fighters is the proliferation of arms falling into the wrong hands, not just in Libya but also in neighbouring countries. Kenya continues to insist on the need for a coordinated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme in a manner that corresponds with the withdrawal of foreign fighters and mercenaries. For the sustainable success of the DDR programme, it should be carried out in cooperation and coordination with the neighbouring States and the African Union.

Kenya is further concerned about the continued violations of the arms embargo. We cannot overemphasize the need for respect for the arms embargo and holding all violators accountable.

We note the Secretary-General's report regarding the advance team (see S/2021/281) and the fact that it has not completed its work. We are keen to receive the full report of the team soon, noting that it will inform the Council's decision on the form of support that the United Nations should provide.

Meanwhile, I wish to underscore the imperative for the United Nations to support the Libya ceasefire monitoring mechanism. Kenya also supports the

expansion of the UNSMIL mandate to include a ceasefire monitoring component, including the 5+5 Joint Military Commission's request for unarmed, non-uniformed individual international monitors, to be deployed under the auspices of the United Nations.

Finally, national reconciliation must be given priority to ensure that the peace dividends are sustainable. With the establishment of the Cabinet, the sitting of the House of Representatives and the continued dialogues, the conditions are ripe.

Kenya welcomes the support offered by the African Union in advancing national reconciliation in furtherance of the peace process. We therefore anticipate close cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in that regard.

Annex VII**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, Juan Ramón de la Fuente Ramírez**

[Original: Spanish]

At the outset, I would like to welcome Special Envoy Ján Kubiš. I thank him for his briefing on the situation in Libya and express Mexico's support for him in his new and challenging responsibilities. I also welcome the Permanent Representative of Libya, who is with us at this meeting.

Mexico welcomes the recent formation of the Government of National Unity, headed by Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Mohammed Dbeibah, which is a decisive step towards unifying the institutions and holding elections on 24 December. By integrating representatives from the different regions of the country, this Government is overcoming the divisions that fuelled the Libyan conflict in the recent past and opening up new possibilities for genuine national reconciliation.

The appointment of five women to the new Libyan Government, some in key positions, such as in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice, is also a significant step forward. However, we must recognize that that number is below the 30 per cent agreed in the road map of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum. Of further concern is the misogynistic rhetoric that has recently been spread on the Internet to attack some of those women. There needs to be an urgent response from the relevant authorities to stop it.

The situation reminds us of the enormous challenges that we still face in ensuring the full, meaningful and equal participation of women in Libya's political life. To move in that direction, it is important to ensure the timely deployment of the women's protection advisory team provided for in resolution 2542 (2020), adopted in September last year, so that it can support the organizational phase of the electoral process. Previous reports of the Secretary-General make it clear that women in politics are targets of attacks and threats. Protection advisers could help to reduce those risks and, in close cooperation with the Libyan judiciary, combat impunity for violence against women.

Mexico notes the report prepared by the advance team with a view to creating a ceasefire monitoring mechanism, as requested by the Libyan parties last October. We believe it to be a priority that such a mechanism should help in the short term to resolve disputes with regard to the implementation of the ceasefire in order to prevent any single dispute from jeopardizing the progress made to date. We also agree with the Secretary-General's report (see S/2021/281) about the importance of using the mechanism to build confidence among the parties.

Meanwhile, to maintain the ceasefire, the countries of origin must repatriate their fighters present in Libya, and the arms embargo must be rigorously enforced. Unfortunately, the latest report of the Panel of Experts on Libya (see S/2021/229) shows that no progress has been made in either of those two areas despite the fact that they are key commitments of the ceasefire agreement.

Furthermore, Mexico believes that it is essential that efforts to facilitate the departure of foreign mercenaries be coordinated with Libya's neighbours, from where a significant number of those fighters come. In that way, developments in the Libyan conflict can be prevented from having a negative impact on the fragile situation of the States of the region through new flows of weapons and fighters.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the call to the Libyan authorities to address the situation of the most vulnerable groups as a matter of priority. Unrestricted

access to humanitarian assistance for the population in need must be ensured. The vulnerability of the nearly 350,000 migrants and refugees in Libya is of particular concern. Mexico calls on the new Government to take measures to close illegal detention centres and to punish abuses against migrants.

We believe that justice for the victims of the atrocities committed during the conflict is a necessary condition for national reconciliation in Libya and a basis for lasting peace.

Annex VIII**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Niger to the United Nations, Abdou Abarry**

[Original: French]

After years of standstill, the situation in Libya has entered a new era, inspired by international conferences, such as that in Berlin, and by initiatives of neighbouring countries, all driven by the will of Libyan political actors to change the destiny of their people. It is fortunate that it is in such a context that Mr. Ján Kubiš has taken up his duties as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Libya. The first-hand information he has just provided us allows us to take stock of the situation in Libya in terms of progress achieved and challenges still to overcome.

Progress in the process of emerging from crisis in Libya is just recompense for the joint and complementary commitments by several actors, foremost among them the Libyans themselves, who have proven to the world that they are capable of dialogue, understanding and moving forward together, when interference and intrusion leave them sufficient space and opportunity.

To borrow the famous quote from the Spanish philosopher Seneca, “If a man knows not to which port he sails, no wind is favourable”. Today Libya knows where it wants to go: it knows it must organize free and credible elections by the end of this year; it knows that those elections cannot be held without peace and reconciliation among all Libyans, excluding no one; it also knows that it is up to Libyans themselves, their sense of commitment and their commitment to the stability and unity of their country to forge the most lasting solution to the grave crisis their country has experienced.

Because Libyans today know where they want to go, they were able, with the support of many among us, to come away from Geneva with consensus on the transitional authorities, which have now been put in place. The assumption of office by Mr. Mohamed Al-Menfi as President of the Presidential Council and of Mr. Abdul Hamid Mohammed Dbeibah as Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, are major positive developments, which should be welcomed. The trust placed by Parliament in the Prime Minister and the steps he has already taken, including the composition of a Unity Government, which includes five women among its number, two of whom hold strategic portfolios, reflects the fact that Libyans now know where they are going.

Now it is up to the Council and the international community to help the Libyan ship stay on course. That course, to continue benefiting from fair winds, must head for the holding of elections as planned on 24 December 2021. The United Nations, through the Special Envoy, will have to mobilize all the support Libya needs to succeed in taking that important step.

For their part, neighbouring countries, together with the African Union, should, without further delay, lay the foundations for the holding of the forum on national reconciliation. To keep up the current positive momentum, we must support the interim authorities in creating the necessary conditions to hold the elections, as well as to send serious warnings to all those who may be tempted to derail the electoral process or undermine the hard-won national unity.

My delegation is of the view that the Security Council, now that Libya knows where it is going, should adopt a draft resolution framing the process under way, which would serve as a road map for the various actors. My country also hopes to see support for the Secretary-General’s call to give the United Nations Support Mission

in Libya (UNSMIL) the appropriate mandate and means to guarantee the deployment of monitors to ensure respect for the ceasefire throughout all Libyan territory.

With regard to security, the Niger encourages the Libyan parties to continue implementing the ceasefire agreement through the monitoring mechanism, including the priorities identified by the 5+5 Joint Military Commission, notably the opening of roads, the withdrawal of foreign contingents and the resolution of the conflict.

We welcome the deployment of the advance team, which will help lay the foundations for a scalable component for UNSMIL, in support of the Joint Military Commission, to monitor the aforementioned ceasefire, taking into account the discussions under way on the implementation of the ceasefire agreement.

We remain gravely concerned about the presence of mercenaries and other foreign fighters as well as the non-compliance to date with the arms embargo. The Niger fears seeing these mercenaries and foreign fighters spread across the porous borders of the countries bordering Libya if the mechanism for monitoring their withdrawal is not established with the greatest of care. It is therefore essential that measures be taken to avoid yet another repetition of what largely contributed to the insecurity the Sahel countries faced at the start of the Libyan conflict in 2011.

In my delegation's view that a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme would be useful in order to supervise the withdrawal of combatants and prevent their return from becoming another source of concern for the Governments of their countries of origin or of neighbouring countries.

Regarding the humanitarian situation, which has become more worrisome with the recent discovery of a new coronavirus-disease variant in the city of Misrata, the Niger reiterates its concerns about the living conditions of migrants. We reaffirm the need to review policy on the disembarkation on Libyan soil of migrants and refugees intercepted at sea.

In conclusion, it is now time for us to evaluate and adjust our actions. We must rethink and harmonize our intervention strategies in order to allow the Libyans to take the lead in stabilizing their country. We in the Niger dearly hope to see Libya and its people, battered by so many years of conflict, continue to benefit from fair winds, its daughters and sons happy, its neighbours untroubled, the region secure and stable and all the initiatives under way crowned with success, allowing Libya to regain its former glory.

Annex IX**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations, Mona Juul**

I thank Special Envoy Kubiš and congratulate him on taking up this important post.

Since the last Security Council meeting on Libya (see S/2021/97), we have seen further encouraging progress on the political track. We welcome the new Government of National Unity, led by Abdul Hamid Mohammed Dbeibah. That is a positive development but only a first step in the process towards a political solution in Libya. It is critical that the interim Government prioritize measures important to the daily lives of the Libyan people, such as restoring basic water, electricity and health-care services.

Norway fully supports the Libyan people in their quest for peace and reconciliation through an inclusive political process. Efforts should now be geared towards the upcoming elections in December and securing legitimacy for a Libyan Government through the people's democratic choice. It is critical that the integrity of the political process be respected and that international actors contribute constructively and in good faith.

The fact that the ceasefire is still holding is a positive sign. However, the entrenched military situation is not sustainable in the long term. A comprehensive and inclusive political solution is needed to break the military deadlock. An important first step would be the reopening of the coastal road. Closely related to that is the need for foreign fighters and mercenaries to leave the country, in accordance with the ceasefire agreement of October 2020.

A comprehensive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process is needed for returning foreign fighters in order to avoid spreading instability in the region. I would also like to reiterate the obligation of all countries to respect the weapons embargo instituted by the Council.

As the report of the Panel of Experts on Libya (see S/2021/229) clearly shows, there are blatant and systematic breaches of the embargo. That fuels the two sides and the conflict. Norway welcomes the progress report regarding the proposed mechanism for ceasefire monitoring in Libya (see S/2021/281). We support a role for the United Nations Support Mission in Libya in such a mechanism and look forward to Council discussions on the matter. As the report emphasizes, the mechanism should be Libyan-led and Libyan-owned.

I now turn to an increasingly worrisome issue. Norway is concerned by the lack of accountability for serious human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law. I would especially highlight the mass graves discovered in Tarhounah. We urge the Government of National Unity to investigate and prosecute those responsible without delay and to provide its full cooperation to the International Criminal Court (ICC). Warrants of arrest issued by ICC must be executed, and the international fact-finding mission to Libya needs to be given access to carry out a comprehensive investigation.

Let me end by reiterating the need for a strong and clear message from the Security Council on the political process. There are many spoilers, and there will be several hurdles ahead. There should therefore be no doubt about the Security Council's support to the interim Government of National Unity and to the election process. It is our responsibility as Council members to provide the Libyans with the support that they need.

Annex X**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, Vassily Nebenzia**

[Original: Russian]

We welcome the appointment of Mr. Ján Kubiš as the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Libya and the Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya. We thank Mr. Kubiš for briefing us on the situation in Libya.

This March not only marks the tenth anniversary of the Syrian crisis, as our Western colleagues were so emphatically recalling just some days ago (see S/2021/265). There is another sad and no less important date to be marked this month that they would rather not remember. Ten years ago, in gross distortion of resolution 1973 (2011), NATO started bombing Libya, which led to the collapse of Libya's statehood, plunged the country into a fratricidal war and contributed to the growth of extremism, the emergence of terrorists, destabilization in Mali and the Sahara-Sahel region in general and uncontrolled migration in the Mediterranean. From the very beginning, there were violations of resolution 1970 (2011), when arms deliveries started to arrive in support of the NATO operation in Libya and with foreign trainers and special forces units working there. The Libyan people have suffered a great deal over this decade on the path to restoring peace. We hope that such suffering was not for nothing. We call on our Western colleagues not to forget that dreadful lesson, for which Libyans are still paying the price, and to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of independent States, including Libya. Incidentally, today is another sad date. It is 22 years since NATO started bombing Yugoslavia.

Over the past two weeks, Libyans have made an important step towards peace in their country. Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Mohammed Dbeibah formed the new interim Government of National Unity, which received a vote of confidence from Parliament, and members of the Presidency Council, headed by Mohammad Menfi, were sworn in. It is symbolic that those events took place in Tripoli, Sirte and Tobruk as a sign of the unity of Libyan society. We welcome the incoming reports about the ceremony held in Benghazi, where the authorities of the eastern part of the country handed over their powers to the Government of National Unity. We welcome the formation of Libya's new civilian authorities, which have the task of preparing the country for the general elections to be held at the end of this year.

That is not an easy task. A great deal needs to be done to ensure the prompt normalization of the situation in Libya, build unified governance, merge State structures and financial and economic institutions and establish unified armed forces. The most important thing that Libyans must do is to overcome the burden of mutual distrust caused by the long-standing conflict.

We are convinced that inclusiveness, taking into account the interests of representatives of all regions and major political forces, including supporters of the former Jamahiriya and the Libyan National Army, can resolve all the above-mentioned tasks and lay a solid foundation for national dialogue in Libya. For our part, we are ready to provide all possible support to stabilize the situation in Libya as soon as possible, including through contacts with all Libyan representatives, whereby we will encourage them to take a constructive approach, and we will continue to support the efforts of Special Envoy Kubiš.

The 5+5 Libyan Joint Military Commission plays an important role in maintaining the ceasefire. We call on all Libyan sides to show restraint and adhere to their commitments under the ceasefire agreement. We also call for compliance with the arms embargo imposed on Libya.

We welcome the steps taken to enable communication between the various parts of the country, which will help to normalize the lives of ordinary citizens and facilitate humanitarian assistance. In addressing the situation in Libya, the international community should be guided by solutions that have been developed, agreed and endorsed by the Libyans themselves. In that regard, we have noted the report of the United Nations advance team for the ceasefire monitoring, which continues its work in Libya.

Dialogue aimed at ensuring the stability of the oil sector constitutes an important element of stabilization given the understanding that Libya's natural resources belong to all citizens of the country. The financial and economic areas also need regulation. In that regard, we are concerned by the fact that the relevant Security Council subsidiary bodies are receiving an increasing number of requests to use some part of Libya's frozen assets to cover their servicing. We recall that Western companies were instructed to safeguard the assets rather than profit off the Libyan people.

We have frequently heard about actions of the Russian military in Libya and have said on many occasions that there are no Russian military in that country. If any our citizens are present in Libya, they do not represent the Russian State. Incidentally, we have repeatedly spoken of the inaccuracy of the data at the disposal of the Panel of Experts on Libya, which does not even bother to verify the information "leaked" to them from open sources. Such information can easily be refuted, and Russian journalists did that. All those findings are readily available on the Internet.

I would recommend to our colleagues that they address the conclusions of the Panel of Experts regarding citizens of their countries actively operating in Libya. It is clear that some of those operations cannot be carried out without the support of Governments. Instead of making such allegations, one should instead look in the mirror.

We would like to react to a comment regarding the interim report of the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya. Since the final version of the document was not agreed within the Committee, we do not wish to raise the sensitive issues pertaining to its endorsement in the public sphere. However, we feel compelled to respond to the allegations that we heard and clarify that the report failed to be endorsed owing to disagreements about the legality of the activities of the European Union Naval Force Mediterranean Operation IRINI. We believe that things must be called by their real names and that the opinions of the Committee members must be taken into consideration, despite how uncomfortable they might appear to some of our colleagues.

Annex XI**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations, Inga Rhonda King**

I begin by extending my sincerest appreciation to Special Envoy Ján Kubiš for his briefing.

Libya continues to make tangible progress on its path towards restoring peace and stability. The formation of the Government of National Unity underscores the importance of dialogue in resolving conflicts and embodies our steadfast conviction that the only viable solution to the crisis is a political one.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its full support for the United Nations multitrack process in Libya and appreciates responsible initiatives by neighbouring countries. We also reiterate our support for the Berlin process and maintain that Libya's territorial integrity and sovereignty must be respected.

It is imperative that the resolve reflected in the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) continue during the transitional phase in the lead-up towards national elections on 24 December.

The road ahead is difficult, and the mandate of the Government of National Unity, under the leadership of Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Mohammed Dbeibah, to unite the country, bring about order and stability, ensure national reconciliation and prepare for elections is even more arduous, especially in a country that has never had national elections.

As Libya prepares for inclusive, free, fair and transparent elections, we encourage all stakeholders to consolidate the existing momentum and finalize all arrangements. The international community, including the Security Council, the African Union and the League of Arab States, remains committed to providing the requisite support.

We are disturbed that foreign fighters and mercenaries remain entrenched in Libya, in violation of the 23 October 2020 ceasefire agreement, and call for their swift withdrawal and full compliance with the agreement. We also look forward to the operationalization of the Libyan-owned and Libyan-led comprehensive ceasefire monitoring mechanism.

Equally of grave concern is the incessant violation of the arms embargo. It was never, or can it ever be, acceptable that Security Council resolutions be flagrantly violated. We therefore urge all parties to adhere to their international obligations.

Building a harmonious, democratic Libyan society requires an all-inclusive approach, and it is a significant responsibility that all Libyans should shoulder together. In this context, we commend the Government of National Unity for including five female ministers in the new Cabinet and stress that women and children are the cornerstone, if not the spinal cord, of any democratic society.

The Government of National Unity ought to be guided by the stipulations outlined in the LPDF road map. And we hope that responsibilities — including ensuring the reunification of all Libyan institutions, undertaking essential economic reforms and enabling a comprehensive national reconciliation process to usher in the new Libya — will be fulfilled. The African Union has committed to facilitating the latter, and we look forward to its constructive role in this regard. Furthermore, the Security Council should adopt a draft resolution to accompany all positive developments in Libya.

The human rights and humanitarian situation remains worrisome. It is my delegation's passionate belief that peace, development, security and human rights are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Impunity therefore must end.

We emphasize the need to bring justice to the victims and reiterate our support for the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya, including investigations pertaining to the mass graves found in Tarhouna.

Similarly, arbitrary and illegal detention centres remain conflict drivers and must close. We urge the authorities to facilitate safe humanitarian access to refugees and migrants, as well as to respond adequately to the devastating coronavirus disease pandemic.

We repeat our views that Libya is an unsafe port for the disembarkation of refugees and migrants and underline the importance of creating the necessary environment to ensure the well-being of vulnerable groups.

In conclusion, my delegation encourages Libyans to look to the future with hope — a hope that acknowledges that the pain and anguish of their immediate history will not be washed away overnight, or on 24 December, but one grounded in the belief that all Libyans, through an inclusive democratic approach, will decide, shape and build the future to which they aspire.

Annex XII**Statement by the Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the United Nations**

[Original: Arabic]

At the outset, allow me to thank Ján Kubiš sincerely for his valuable briefing. I reiterate that Tunisia stands ready to support him in his tasks and will continue to provide facilities for the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and its Coordinator, Raisedon Zenenga, and the various other United Nations and international entities operating in Libya out of Tunisia. I also welcome the participation at this meeting of His Excellency the Permanent Representative of Libya, Ambassador Taher Elsonni.

Tunisia reiterates its deep satisfaction with the progress in the political process in Libya and the vote of confidence in the new Libyan Government of National Unity from the House of Representatives. We take this occasion to congratulate the members of the executive branch and the Libyan people for this important step towards ending division, emerging from the crisis and realizing the legitimate aspirations of Libyans' for development and reconstruction.

In keeping with the fraternal relations and unique historical ties that bind the State of Libya and the Republic of Tunisia, and out Tunisia's commitment to supporting the democratic process in Libya, on 17 March the President of the Republic, Kaïs Saïed, led an official visit to the sister State of Libya so that he could be in the vanguard of supporters of a peaceful transfer of power in Libya in accordance with the provisions of the road map for the preparatory phase of a comprehensive solution, which was adopted in Tunisia.

Tunisia reaffirms the importance of the commitment of all parties to holding legislative and presidential elections as scheduled on 24 December 2021, to ensure that the move from the transitional stage to permanent institutions takes place in an environment of freedom, democracy and the rule of law. Tunisia urges all the parties concerned — local, regional and international — to help create suitable conditions and provide the support and facilities necessary for the success of national elections. That is the way to fulfil the aspirations of the Libyan people for an end to the crisis, restore security and stability and bring about national reconciliation.

Tunisia reiterates its satisfaction with the commitment of the Libyan parties to respect the ceasefire. In that connection, we would like to especially commend the efforts of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission during this critical stage in the history of Libya. We also call for continued compliance with the terms of the ceasefire agreement and joint action to implement them. In that regard, we stress the need to accelerate the departure of mercenaries and foreign fighters from Libya. Their continued presence poses a threat to Libya and the region.

We join our voice to those calling on all parties to comply fully with the arms embargo imposed on Libya, to refrain from interfering in its internal affairs and to respect its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Tunisia welcomes the Secretary-General's interim report (S/2021/281) on options for monitoring the ceasefire in Libya, which contains information on progress towards a Libyan-led ceasefire monitoring mechanism and requirements for the deployment of a United Nations ceasefire monitoring component as part of UNSMIL. In that regard, we encourage continued coordination among UNSMIL, the United Nations advance team and the 5+5 Joint Military Commission to ensure effective monitoring of the ceasefire in Libya.

Given the intimate connection between developments on the ground and the success of the political process during this crucial stage of Libyan history, Tunisia calls on all the parties concerned to support the establishment of a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned ceasefire monitoring mechanism and to meet the requirements for United Nations support for that process. We also stress the importance of Security Council support for progress towards a settlement in accordance with the road map, so that elections can take place under propitious conditions.

In that connection, Tunisia emphasizes the need to comply with international humanitarian law and international human rights law. It calls for the situation of migrants and refugees to be duly addressed and for enhanced accountability to ensure that the grave violations and crimes committed in Libya do not go unpunished.

Tunisia also calls on all international stakeholders to support the efforts of the Libyan authorities to address the repercussions of the coronavirus disease pandemic and to ensure that humanitarian assistance is delivered to the rightful beneficiaries.

In conclusion, Tunisia renews its strong commitment to support the aspirations of the Libyan people to establish democracy, security and reconstruction and to continue to support United Nations and international efforts to achieve a political settlement that ensures that Libya regains its stability and its regional and international stature.

Annex XIII**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations, Barbara Woodward**

I thank you, Special Envoy Kubiš, and your team for all your work and for your report today. I would like to highlight three points today.

First, I welcome the endorsement of the new interim Government of National Unity and the Presidency Council by the House of Representatives. This, as we have heard, is a significant step forward in the Libyan-led, and now Libyan-endorsed, political process, and we applaud the determination of the Libyan people in reaching this point.

The appointment of five female Ministers, including the first female Foreign Minister, is also welcome. We urge the new Government to facilitate women's participation in the political process, including in the elections this year.

The priorities for the new Government are clearly set out in the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum road map: to organize free and fair presidential and parliamentary elections in December 2021, to address the basic needs of the Libyan people, to commence a process of national reconciliation and to implement fully the 23 October ceasefire agreement. A long path still lies ahead, but the United Kingdom stands ready to help.

Secondly, it is essential that all parties, Libyan and external, implement the ceasefire fully. We have seen positive steps, including the announcement by the 5+5 Joint Military Commission on the opening of the coastal road. The temporary withdrawal of foreign fighters and mercenaries from Sirte in order to allow members of the House of Representatives to participate safely in the parliamentary session was welcome, but their return was a retrograde step.

The removal of foreign forces and mercenaries from Libya must be complete and irreversible. This includes the contractors working for organizations, such as the Russian Wagner Group, and the Syrian mercenaries fighting on both sides. This demand is made at the behest of the Libyan people, as Prime Minister Dbeibah reiterated in his speech to the House of Representatives earlier this month.

Thirdly, on the question of next steps, we have, as Special Envoy Kubiš said, a trend and momentum that must not be lost. We welcome the deployment of the United Nations advance team and their report on the ceasefire monitoring mechanism. We look forward to Security Council discussions on the recommendations in the report and hope to begin discussions soon on amending the mandate of United Nations Support Mission in Libya accordingly.

We also welcome the United Nations Panel of Experts report (see S/2021/229), which provides stark evidence on the scale of arms embargo violations, including by a permanent member of the Security Council. We call on all Member States to fulfil their obligations to respect the arms embargo. This is not optional.

We all have a part to play in supporting the Libyan-led political process in Libya and ending the foreign interference, which continues to undermine Libyan sovereignty and stability, and in supporting the steps to prepare for elections on 24 December.

Annex XIV**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield**

Let me start by thanking you, Special Envoy Kubiš, for your briefing today. It is a pleasure to welcome you to this first Security Council briefing in your new role. And I also want to thank Ambassador Tirumurti for his efforts as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011), concerning Libya.

The Libyan political process has advanced dramatically over the past six months, and particularly over the past six weeks since you arrived as Special Envoy. Libya has taken tremendous strides forward, and the efforts of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya to support this progress have been critical.

The vote of confidence by the House of Representatives and the swearing-in of the Cabinet of a new, unified, interim Libyan Government, which has been charged with leading the country up to the elections, could mark a turning point for Libya. We commend all Libyan actors for constructively participating in this process, as well as the Libyan people for their determination to restore unity to their country.

These are welcome developments. We are encouraged by this progress. But we cannot become complacent. It is time to press forward and to help Libya's Cabinet with the hard work ahead of pulling the country together.

Today I would like to talk about the three main steps for permanent peace in Libya: unity, transparency and free and fair elections.

First, with regard unity, while Libya has taken great strides economically, we are concerned that Libya does not have a unified budget. A unified budget is necessary to provide for the needs of the Libyan people. We urge swift action. The new interim Government will need to earn its credibility with the Libyan people, and meeting their basic needs is essential to doing so.

Secondly, with regard to transparency, trust is what democratic Governments are built on. Any peaceful, sustainable, unified Government must be transparent and free from corruption. That is particularly true when it comes to any agreement on the management of oil revenues. The interim Government of National Unity must resist and root out corruption wherever possible — and it is up to us to make that clear to them. That includes taking control away from militias that have abused their power for personal gain, making sovereign institutions apolitical and creating mechanisms to identify and punish those who engage in corruption.

Thirdly, and most important, the top priority for our Mission and the country needs to be organizing free and fair elections on 24 December 2021. International support for these efforts will be essential. We must honour this timeline in order to sustain the confidence of the Libyan people and the international community. And that means all external actors involved in this conflict must cease their military intervention, respect the Libyan ceasefire agreement and begin withdrawing from Libya immediately. The Libyan people demanded this withdrawal in their 23 October ceasefire announcement. The 5+5 Joint Military Commission recently reaffirmed this request.

There can be no exceptions to this stipulation. The continued presence of some forces has become an excuse for continuing the presence of others. It is time for everyone to de-escalate and end this perpetual cycle. In addition, all military support in violation of the United Nations arms embargo must end — including the training and financing of mercenaries and proxy forces.

And to further ensure Libyans continue down the path towards free and fair elections in December, we call on members of the Security Council to adhere to their Berlin process commitments. That means genuinely and actively supporting the United Nations political process, implementing the ceasefire agreement and respecting the United Nations arms embargo.

We must also hold to account perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses and ensure humanitarians can access those who are in desperate need of help.

We welcome the deployment of the United Nations advance team to Libya as the next step in the ceasefire agreement, and we welcome the proposals on the tasks and scale of the ceasefire-monitoring mechanisms from the Secretary-General this month.

The past few weeks have shown us that, when given the means, the people of Libya are ready to take responsibility and move their country forward. Libyan decisions have driven this process. Those decisions were made in public view through live transmissions and, most important, they are supported by the Libyan public. Now it is time to turn promising progress into full and lasting peace.

Annex XV**Statement by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations, Pham Hai Anh**

I would like to welcome Mr. Jan Kubiš, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Libya, to his first Security Council meeting in this capacity and to thank him for his comprehensive briefing. I also welcome Ambassador Taher Elsonni, Permanent Representative of Libya, to this meeting.

The significant progress on the political and security fronts in Libya since the beginning of 2021 is greatly encouraging. The Government of National Unity has been formed, and the permanent ceasefire continues to be largely upheld. Viet Nam reiterates our consistent support for an inclusive, Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process, on the basis of respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. In the light of the recent historic developments, it is critical to maintain the positive momentum. I wish to highlight the three following points.

First, we call on the Government of National Unity to put in its best efforts in facilitating the transitional period and make all the necessary preparations for the holding of national elections, in line with the agreed road map. We hope that the Libyan parties will continue to demonstrate a spirit of mutual understanding and trust, as they have shown in the past months, to advance the political process. We note with encouragement that, out of 35 ministers of the new Libyan Government of National Unity, five are women — especially the reaffirmation by the Prime Minister of the commitment to have more women in executive positions. We look forward to the increasingly active and meaningful participation of women and youth in the political life of the country.

We commend the collaboration among the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), regional organizations, neighbouring countries and other international partners in promoting the peace process in Libya. The international community should continue to foster dialogue and support confidence-building measures among the relevant parties at this crucial time.

Secondly, we urge the relevant parties to fully respect and implement the provisions of the ceasefire agreement. This must also be in line with the commitment to uphold the arms embargo in line with relevant Security Council resolutions on Libya, in order to maintain a safe, secure and conducive environment for the transition in the country.

In this regard, we reiterate our support for UNSMIL to support to the Libyan-led and Libyan-owned ceasefire monitoring mechanism, in line with relevant Security Council resolutions on Libya. We will study the recent report (see S/2021/281) of Secretary-General and work closely with other Council Members in this regard.

Thirdly, further attention and efforts are needed in addressing the humanitarian and economic challenges in the country. While Libya has achieved economic progress over the past months, over 1 million people, according to Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, still require humanitarian assistance due to the consequences of conflict and the coronavirus disease pandemic. We call on all international partners to continue to provide technical and financial support for Libya and countries in the region in this regard.

We also commend the efforts by the parties since 10 February to clear the coastal road from Sirte to Abu Qurayn of mines and explosive remnants of war, with the support of the Libyan Mine Action Centre and the United Nations Mine Action Service. We call for adequate efforts in risk mitigation to protect civilians from explosive remnants of war.

In conclusion, Viet Nam reaffirms our strong support for the pursuit of peace, stability and development of Libya. We would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate our support for the work of UNSMIL and Mr. Ján Kubiš.

Annex XVI**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Libya to the United Nations, Taher Elsonni**

[Original: Arabic]

At the outset, I should like to congratulate you on your appointment as the representative of the United States as well as on your assumption of the Presidency of the Security Council for this month. We also welcome Ján Kubiš, thank him for his first briefing and wish him and his team the best of luck in their new mission.

Permit me to speak to you today directly and explicitly, and not necessarily from the script. There can be no doubt that this meeting is different from previous ones. Our meeting today coincides with a historic and important transformation in the history of the crisis in my country. Today I speak to you not of competing legitimacies, internal divisions and the positions of one party versus another. Today I speak on behalf of a single unified State of Libya.

Despite all the challenges and difficulties and against all expectations, the Libyan-led political process has resulted in an achievement that many had thought impossible. After years of division and conflict, we now see harbingers of hope that Libya will make a comeback and turn the page on the suffering that has affected us all. Today we must pay tribute to all the innocent Libyans who lost their lives to the conflict over the past 10 years, as well as those who sacrificed their lives to fight terrorism and extremism and to defend the dream of building a civil State.

The new executive branch was elected through the Political Dialogue Forum held in our sister State of Tunisia. The participants in the Dialogue carried out their responsibilities despite all the challenges. This important event culminated in the vote of confidence by the House of Representatives in the Government of National Unity, in a scene that many were betting would end in failure. That was followed by administration of the constitutional oath and the peaceful transfer ceremonies in the east and west of the country. These events proved to all that, given the right conditions, Libyans are able to meet challenges. They affirmed that the democratic path and peaceful transfer of power is the best and only solution for stability and the exercise of State sovereignty over all of Libyan territory, and that there is no military solution to the Libyan crisis. In that regard, we welcome all international expressions of support for the recent agreements.

The crisis of competing legitimacies, which for years had been a major source of conflict, has now come to an end. Thanks to the declaration of the Presidency Council and the Head of the Government of National Unity, the will of Libyans will be resolutely fulfilled through early national elections, despite the short amount of time. The most important tasks at hand are to improve the living and working conditions of citizens fairly across all regions, consolidate institutions, establish security and stability throughout the country, support the work of the Joint Military Commission, combat terrorism and launch a comprehensive national reconciliation effort to pave the way for the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for 24 December.

These elections, which all Libyans have looked forward to for so long, will undoubtedly face numerous challenges at the internal and external levels. The State's lack of a monopoly on arms and the proliferation of extra-legal armed groups remain among the most important internal challenges. Externally, the international community is presented with an opportunity to contribute positively at this stage. It can act to correct its mistakes and support the will of Libyans to make up for the suffering it has caused to my country through direct and indirect interventions since 2011.

The Security Council has a moral responsibility to Libyans for allowing conditions to deteriorate to where they are now. It has a moral responsibility to the innocent victims, including children, young people and women, wherever they may be, and those left behind, whoever they are. In the end, they are all Libyans.

We have heard time and again that the solution must be Libyan-owned and Libyan-led. We call on the Security Council to invest in the momentum and broad national and international support for the recent agreement. It must demonstrate its readiness to stand behind the legitimate demands of the Libyan people to transition towards building the State for which they have made such great sacrifices. The Council should adopt a draft resolution supporting the will of Libyans, the outcome of the Political Dialogue Forum and the road map leading up to the general elections. Such a draft resolution should affirm full support to ensure a transparent and fair electoral process and respect for its outcome, with participation by all Libyans at home and abroad, including displaced persons and migrants. The draft resolution should hold accountable anyone trying to obstruct the national electoral process.

In that connection, we call on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya to expedite its support for efforts by both the House of Representatives and the Council of State to coordinate the constitutional and legal committees to reach agreement on the constitutional procedures and laws for the elections. As we know, these elections are not within the responsibility or purview of the executive branch. The Chair of the High National Election Commission has repeatedly pointed out that, if the necessary legislation is not enacted within the next two months, it will not be possible to hold the elections on the scheduled date approved by Libyans.

The outcomes of the Libyan Political Dialogue can be achieved only with the support and success of the Joint Military Commission, whose members have demonstrated unparalleled courage and patriotism. They have paved the way to the point we have reached today. The Security Council should support the Commission and support the implementation of the provisions of the ceasefire agreement, the most important of which is the immediate departure of all mercenaries and foreign forces from all regions of Libya. That must occur in conjunction with disarming them so that they do not become a new source of threat elsewhere, particularly in neighbouring countries or the Sahel States. I believe that the recent report (see S/2021/229) of the Panel of Experts showed the magnitude of these types of interventions and the names of those involved. I call on the States cited in that report to repudiate what is attributed to them, exonerate themselves and correct their mistakes. If these charges are mere allegations, then what is the point of these reports?

The departure of all mercenaries and foreign forces from Libya is a sovereign demand that cannot be compromised. It is the only way to ensure the stability of the country and the region as a whole. This demand must be complied with first and foremost by the States that have inserted themselves into Libyan affairs and involved us in their proxy wars. Their cannon fodder is our youth.

We are grateful for all the United Nations and international efforts in support of the Libyan dialogues in their various tracks. We particularly thank the international working groups that emerged from the Berlin Conference and take this opportunity to call upon them to officially include the Libyan Government in their upcoming meetings. We believe that the reasons for excluding Libya from official representation at previous meetings are no longer applicable.

Speaking of those different tracks, we reiterate the importance of supporting an essential track that has been neglected over the past few years. I refer to a dialogue on national reconciliation and transitional justice, which the Presidency Council and Government of National Unity have just announced. National reconciliation and transitional justice are priorities because they are the true guarantors of the

sustainability of any other dialogues or tracks. The problem in Libya is not division of power or who will occupy which post. The real problem in Libya is that the wounds suffered since 2011 have yet to be healed. The problem in Libya is that some have pursued a policy of exclusion, marginalization and domination. The solution lies in starting from the ground up to bolster social peace and restore trust. We have seen numerous violations of human rights and crimes against humanity in recent years in most parts of the country. To this day, we continue to see innocent people in prisons, forced disappearances, extrajudicial killings and unidentified bodies discovered in mass graves, as happened in Tarhounah.

Recovering from these wounds and establishing the principles of mercy and forgiveness can be done only by enforcing the law, uncovering the truth, acknowledging fault and redressing damage. There can be no peace without justice. We reiterate our call on the African Union — through the African States represented here on the Council — to support the launch by the new executive branch of a comprehensive national reconciliation effort along the lines of the several successful experiences seen on our African continent.

In conclusion, the Presidency Council and the Libyan Government call on the Libyan people to work hand in hand to shepherd country to safety and move from chaos and strife to stability and peace. It is time to embark upon the development and reconstruction stage and put an end to destruction and ruin. We can assure you that Libya will work to regain an active role at both the regional and international levels, with a view to strengthening cooperation and solidarity on a foundation of friendly relations, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya and respect for its people's right to determine their fate of their own free will and without foreign dictates.
