



Security Council

Seventy-fourth year

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 Tuesday, 21 May 2019, 10 a.m.
 New York

Provisional

President: Mr. Djani (Indonesia)

Members:

Belgium	Mrs. Van Vlierberge
China	Mr. Ma Zhaoxu
Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. Adom
Dominican Republic	Mr. Singer Weisinger
Equatorial Guinea	Mr. Sipaco Ribala
France	Mr. Delattre
Germany	Mr. Schulz
Kuwait	Mr. Alotaibi
Peru	Mr. Ugarelli
Poland	Ms. Wronecka
Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
South Africa	Ms. Bekwa
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
United States of America	Mr. Cohen

Agenda

The situation in Libya

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

The situation in Libya

The agenda was adopted.

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

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Mr. Ghassan Salamé, Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, and Mr. Smail Chergui, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security.

Mr. Chergui is joining via video-teleconference from Addis Ababa.

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

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Salamé, Mr. Chergui and by Ambassador Juergen Schulz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya.

I now give the floor to Mr. Salamé.

Mr. Salamé: Let me start by wishing Ramadan Kareem to our Muslim colleagues on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan.

Allow also me to congratulate the Republic of Indonesia on its presidency of the Security Council this month. I am grateful for this opportunity to brief the Council in person on our work in Libya.

This is the report that I have spent nearly all of the past two years trying to avoid delivering. Forty-eight days into the attack on Tripoli by General Haftar's forces, there has already been too much death and destruction. Libya is on the verge of descending into a civil war, which could lead to the permanent division of the country. The damage already done will take years to mend, and that is only if the war is ended now.

The consequences and the risks of the conflict are already painfully clear, especially for the Libyan people: more than 460 dead, 29 of them civilians; more than 2,400 injured, the majority of them civilians; and more than 75,000 people forced from their homes, all

of them civilians. More than half of the displaced are women and children. Humanitarian actors estimate that more than 100,000 men, women and children remain trapped in immediate frontline areas, with over 400,000 more in areas directly impacted by the clashes.

While the conditions for migrants and refugees in Libya were already dire prior to the conflict, those conditions have now gone from bad to worse. Nearly 3,400 refugees and migrants are trapped in detention centres exposed to, or in close proximity to, the fighting. United Nations humanitarian agencies have been working around the clock to transfer the most vulnerable from the conflict-affected areas to safer locations, and I am very, very proud of their work.

When the Secretary-General visited Libya on 3 April, his visit was intended to show the full support of the international community for the peaceful resolution of Libya's long period of upheaval. The capital was enjoying a measure of increased security and the population a much more stable currency and an improved economic outlook, and the political process, despite many obstacles, was moving forward.

Indeed, we were on the eve of hosting the national conference in the Libyan city of Ghadames, an event that would have brought together more than 150 Libyans from across the country. There was great public excitement about what the conference could yield in terms of a way forward to end Libya's eight-year-long period of transition and usher in a new period of stability and security through the ballot box. To see those who had enthusiastically accepted our invitation to Ghadames suddenly take up arms against one another, to attack the capital or to defend it, has plunged me into the deepest level of sadness for the opportunity lost and for a hope killed exactly 10 days before its realization.

The attack on Tripoli also imperilled the potential of the talks that had been held on 27 February in Abu Dhabi between Prime Minister Serraj and General Haftar, the sixth of its kind between them. At those talks there had been a real opportunity to replace the Government of National Accord in Tripoli, dissolve the parallel Government in Al-Bayda and create an inclusive, unified national Government that would have shepherded the country through the election process to the end of the transitional period. The understandings reached in Abu Dhabi had also placed the military under civilian control, a key demand of the vast majority of Libyans and many in the international community.

I am no Cassandra, but the violence on the outskirts of Tripoli is just the start of a long and bloody war on the southern shores of the Mediterranean, imperilling the security of Libya's immediate neighbours and the wider Mediterranean region. The security vacuum created by the withdrawal of many of General Haftar's troops from the south, coupled with the focus of the western forces on the defence of the capital, is already being exploited by Da'esh and Al-Qaida. In the south of Libya, the black flags of Da'esh are appearing, and I am dismayed to report that since April 4, there have been four separate Da'esh attacks in the south of Libya: two attacks in Ghodwa, one in Sebha and one just a few days ago in Zella. The cumulative toll of the attacks has been 17 killed, more than 10 wounded and eight kidnapped. Libyan forces that had in the past courageously defended their country against these terrorist groups are now busy fighting one another. In addition to the innocent Libyans being ruthlessly subjected to the increasing terror of Da'esh, there will be a spillover of this violence to Libya's immediate neighbours.

There are numerous reports of extremists, persons under international sanctions and individuals wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) appearing on the battlefield on all sides. All parties must publicly disassociate themselves from such elements without delay and refer to the ICC those for whom arrest warrants have been issued. I recommend that the Council support the formation of a commission of inquiry to determine who has taken up arms and that it also support the establishment of mechanisms to ensure the exclusion of unwanted elements.

No less worrying is the fact that arms are pouring in again to all sides. The blatant and televised breach of the arms embargo by the apparent delivery of a large quantity of weapons and armoured vehicles to Government of National Accord forces in Tripoli a few days ago comes on the heels of earlier and ongoing deliveries of banned modern weaponry to the Libyan National Army. Many countries are providing weapons to all parties in the conflict without exception. The amount and sophistication of such weapons are already causing greater numbers of casualties. Without a robust enforcement mechanism, the arms embargo on Libya will become a cynical joke. Some nations are fuelling this bloody conflict; the United Nations should put an end to it.

The conflict has been characterized by the use of airstrikes, heavy artillery and the indiscriminate

shelling of residential areas. Ramadan nights, normally convivially spent in the company of one's neighbours and family, have become periods of sheer terror for the residents of the capital, waiting in fear for the next attack. Since mid-April there has been a rising number of night-time precision strikes on Government of National Accord positions in and around Tripoli by unknown aircraft, averaging five a night. On May 8 an ammunition depot belonging to the Government of National Accord-aligned Janzour Knights was hit in an airstrike that was within a kilometre of the United Nations compound where we work and live.

The large number of casualties has overburdened the already weakened health facilities struggling with shortages of medical personnel and supplies. Eleven ambulances were directly hit by airstrikes, rockets and shelling while on duty. I am appalled by the apparent disregard for the due protection of personnel engaging in vital medical tasks and recall that attacks against health workers constitute a serious violation of international humanitarian law.

We are also deeply concerned about the sharp increase in abductions, disappearances and arbitrary arrests since the start of the current conflict. At least seven officials and employees have been arbitrarily detained or kidnapped in eastern and western Libya. The fate of all those individuals remains unknown, and there may be others who have disappeared under similar circumstances. Journalists also face increasing threats, intimidation and violence, often in connection with reporting on the conflict. I therefore call for the Council's unequivocal support in insisting on the application of international humanitarian law for all parties to the conflict. We need to demonstrate to those who commit violations that impunity will not prevail. We need to sanction those who use the fog of war to violently settle personal or political scores.

As the conflict rolls on, Libya's social fabric is unravelling at an alarming rate. Calls for a halt to the fighting and reconciliation amongst the warring parties are being drowned out by internal and regional parties that have weaponized social media to drive fake news, false narratives and expressions of hatred that more deeply divide the population. The Mission has established a mechanism to monitor hate speech online and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has already referred a number of cases of incitement to Facebook.

The United Nations maintains an active presence on the ground in Libya, in Tripoli and through our hub in Benghazi. Naturally, given the situation, we have scaled down our non-essential personnel, but we remain in Libya, alongside the Libyan people, to deliver as best we can. Over 42,000 people have received some form of assistance through United Nations programmes since the start of the conflict.

Food prices are rising across the country as shortages start to occur. Insecurity and the resource demands of the parties to the conflict are exacerbating those shortages, particularly with regard to fuel. Another casualty of the conflict is Libya's infrastructure, including electricity and water. Already unable to meet demand, the water supply to the capital and the whole of north-west Libya has been weaponized as armed groups have cut off the Great Man-Made River to extract concessions. That act put tens of thousands of people in immediate danger and may constitute a war crime. Such acts must be condemned in the strongest terms.

The only positive economic indicator is that all parties have so far acted in the national interest by not impeding the oil supply. However, there are indications that the eastern branch of the National Oil Corporation is again attempting to export oil, in violation of the sanctions regime. This illegal attempt risks dividing the National Oil Corporation, which remains the primary source of revenue for the country and the national social safety net.

We should not discount Libyan resilience in the face of this tragic turn of events. Since 30 March, Libyan citizens have shown admirable resolve in democratically electing new municipal councils in 22 municipalities in western and southern Libya. Eighteen of these councils have already sworn in their mayors. It is unfortunate that some elections have had to be postponed for security reasons. In that regard, I note that efforts of the parallel Government in the east to appoint mayors or block municipal elections from being held are a denial of the rights of all Libyans to elect their local representatives. It is vital to keep the pilot light of democracy alive in Libya, and I appeal to the Council to lend its unqualified support to the continuation of the municipal election process.

There is no military solution to Libya. This is not a cliché, it is a fact, and it is high time for those who have harboured that illusion to open their eyes and adjust themselves to the reality. Libya's mosaic of

communities cannot be governed without alliances and relationships stretching across the country. It was to be through the national conference bringing those myriad communities together that hope for an inclusive, peaceful and prosperous future existed.

I hear many Libyans telling us that the political process cannot ignore the present war as if it were not taking place. They are right; there is a before and after 4 April, and we, as impartial mediators, need to adjust that process in order to bridge the deep gap of mistrust that has prevailed since that date. Our consultations with the parties, as well as with men and women of influence, have not ceased and we struggle to maintain a minimum of political fluidity among the various groups, which, sooner rather than later, will need to come back and devise together a better future for their children and a more peaceful formula for sharing power and resources.

To that end, Libyans need the international community to work in unison to mitigate and alleviate their divisions, instead of amplifying them. A better future is still possible, but we all must be seized with the fierce urgency of now while the front lines remain on the outskirts of Tripoli and before the battle moves, God forbid, to the capital's more densely populated neighbourhoods. That will require the concerted and immediate action of the international community.

Without the international and regional stakeholders recognizing that Libya is not a prize for the strongest, but a country of 6.5 million people who deserve peace and the right to collectively determine their own path forward, the future of Libya will be bleak. I fear that without immediate action to stop the flow of arms and pressure on the Libyan parties to the conflict to enable a return to serious dialogue, Libya will descend into civil war, which could potentially lead to a Hobbesian all-against-all state of chaos or partition of the country.

Full civil war in Libya is not inevitable, but it may occur by the will of some parties and the inaction of others. I hear Libyans resigning themselves to a conflict of many months or even many years. My duty, and that of this family of nations, is to tell them: "No. You need to stop the fighting and stop it now, for the sake of your loved ones, for the sake of your country and for the sake of international peace and security."

I therefore request this organ to take up its responsibility, urge the silencing of the guns and call on the warring parties to engage with the Mission to

ensure a full and comprehensive cessation of hostilities and a return to an inclusive, United Nations-led political process.

The President: I thank Mr. Salamé for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Chergui.

Mr. Chergui: I would first like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to address the Council on the situation in Libya.

The current security situation in Libya is of great concern, as it has gravely deteriorated in the past few weeks. On 4 April, the Libyan National Army launched a military campaign to take over Tripoli and the Government of National Accord mobilized forces to defend the capital. The ensuing fighting led to the death of over 400 civilians, more than 2,000 injured and 65,000 displaced persons. The ongoing fighting in and around Tripoli has led to the emergence of a range of alliances between the Government of National Accord and several armed groups, and the Libyan National Army with other militias. The situation is further complicated by the fact that Libya has essentially become a proxy battleground for a number of external actors that are pursuing their national interests through local proxies.

Since the beginning of the crisis in Libya in 2011, the African Union (AU) has consistently called on all the parties and their external backers to pursue a political solution to the crisis in the country. The AU remains convinced that there is no military solution to the crisis and therefore reiterates its call for dialogue and consensus among Libyans as the only lasting solution for a stable and united Libya.

The African Union's engagement at all levels has consistently focused on helping the Libyan stakeholders to address the loopholes and shortcomings of the Libyan Political Agreement in order to promote a durable solution. However, persistent disagreements between the Presidency Council and the House of Representatives on the scope and modalities of the implementation has stalled any meaningful progress.

It is tragic to see the war resume on the same day that the Secretary-General arrives in Tripoli and two days after the Chairperson of the African Commission visited the airport in Benghazi to consolidate a much-expected political agreement. In relation to the foregoing, the African Union and the United Nations are leading efforts to organize an all-inclusive dialogue to promote

reconciliation through the Libyan National Peace and Reconciliation Forum, scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa at the headquarters of the African Union.

More recently, in early March Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo and I visited Libya, where, among other things, we agreed on the need to closely coordinate the activities of the United Nations and the African Union in managing the political and security situation in Libya. In addition to such contentious issues as the composition of the Presidency Council, the formation of the Government, the issue of Commander-in-Chief of the Army and the equitable distribution of oil revenues, we continue to be highly concerned about the fate of African migrants in Libya and the dangerous impact of the crisis not only on Libya's neighbours but on the entire Sahel space. The latest terrorist attack in the Niger proved once again that new skills and greater capabilities have been exported from Libya.

I would like to highlight the following four messages on the way forward.

First, there is an imperative to recognize that the situation in Libya is deteriorating at an alarming rate. This underscores the need for an immediate ceasefire agreement and secure safe corridors for the provision of humanitarian assistance.

Secondly, the current situation has had devastating effects on the African migrants, especially those in detention centres in Tripoli, where it has been reported that some of them have been used as human shields or otherwise forced to join the fighting. Beyond our coordination with the International Organization for Migration and the European Union on the issue, additional efforts are urgently needed.

Thirdly, there is a need to acknowledge that there has been unprecedented, toxic external interference in Libya. Such interference has flooded the country with weapons, which has created an environment conducive to terrorist groups thriving. This interference is exacerbating the already volatile situation on the ground. In this regard, we call on all actors to work in the genuine interest of the Libyan people and respect the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Libya.

Fourthly, all stakeholders need to concentrate their efforts on the continuation of the peace process and prepare for the convening of the national conference and the African Union-led all-inclusive conference for

reconciliation. We look forward to working closely with local, regional and international stakeholders to ensure the success of these two meetings and pave the way for a final and permanent settlement of the Libyan conflict.

In the face of the prolonged suffering and despair of the Libyan people, the full-scale war imposed on them and the bitter lessons of the past seven years, I count on my colleagues around this table to go above and beyond a review of the political and security situation to focus on a common approach, based on a single African Union-United Nations road map in the spirit of sincere cooperation for a comprehensive solution to the crisis in Libya.

The President: I thank Mr. Chergui for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Schulz.

Mr. Schulz (Germany): In accordance with paragraph 24 (e) of resolution 1970 (2011), of 26 February 2011, I have the honour to report to the Security Council on the work of the Committee established by the same resolution. The report covers the period from 21 March to 21 May 2019. At the outset, I would like to highlight three developments relating to the work of the Committee.

First, the Committee received the interim report of the Panel of Experts, pursuant to paragraph 15 of resolution 2441 (2018), on 2 May.

Secondly, the Committee received an ad hoc report from the Panel on 3 May. A Committee meeting with the Coordinator of the Panel is scheduled for 31 May.

Thirdly, a member of the Panel of Experts, Mr. Moncef Kartas, was arrested and detained in Tunisia on 26 March. Since that time, the members of the Committee have received five written notes and one oral briefing from the Secretariat with respect to this matter. On 18 April, in my capacity as Chair, and accompanied by the Secretariat, I met with the Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the United Nations, as agreed during the informal consultations of the Committee on 15 April. In its most recent written note of 13 May, the Secretariat informed the Committee that following a careful review of the information submitted by the Tunisian authorities to the Secretariat relating to the legal proceedings in relation to Mr. Kartas, it reaffirmed the immunities enjoyed by Mr. Kartas and requested his immediate release and that the charges against him to be dropped. The

Committee is closely following the situation and calls upon the Secretariat to keep the Committee informed.

During the reporting period, the Committee concluded its consideration of two of the four communications previously submitted by Libya with reference to paragraph 8 of resolution 2174 (2014). In those two cases, the Committee determined that the items and services in question fell under the exception to the arms embargo contained in paragraph 10 of resolution 2095 (2013), provided that all of the conditions of the exception were met. The Committee also responded to a guidance request from the United Nations Support Mission in Libya related to the arms embargo.

Furthermore, the Committee received three inspection reports, conveyed by the European Union, on vessel inspections conducted by the European Union military operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean under the authorization provided by resolution 2292 (2016) and extended in resolution 2420 (2018). The Committee recalls the arms embargo established pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1970 (2011), 2009 (2011), 2095 (2013) and 2174 (2014) which obliges all Member States to take immediate steps to ensure full and effective implementation of the arms embargo.

With regard to the assets freeze, no negative decision was taken by the Committee on a basic-expenses notification submitted by the United Kingdom in connection with medical and related travel expenses for Ms. Aisha Al-Qadhafi. A travel-ban exemption request had previously been approved for Ms. Al-Qadhafi. Also with respect to the travel ban, the Committee approved a second exemption request pursuant to paragraph 16 (a) of resolution 1970 (2011) for Ms. Al-Qadhafi.

Furthermore, after receiving additional information from the Panel of Experts, as well as from Libya, the Committee determined that the travel of Mr. Abu Zayd Umar Dorda, from Libya to Egypt through Tunisia, on 17 February 2019, constituted non-compliance with the travel-ban measure. While appreciating Mr. Dorda's reported medical condition at the time of travel, the Committee would like to highlight that its travel-ban exemption procedures allow for the consideration of cases of emergency medical evacuation. For individuals who are also subject to an assets freeze, the Committee would like to highlight that the Council has provided for exemptions in paragraph 19 of resolution 1970 (2011), and that the Committee has elaborated corresponding

exemption procedures in its Guidelines. The Committee has written to the three countries in connection with Mr. Dorda's travel and has received a response from one of them.

The President: I thank Mr. Schulz for his briefing.

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

Ms. Pierce (United Kingdom): I thank Mr. Salamé and Mr. Chergui for their briefings, as well as the German Ambassador for his report on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya. We are very grateful that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General could be here in New York. That was a very sobering and quite alarming briefing he delivered. We take very seriously the warnings that you, Mr. President, have given.

I want to set out three clear things right at the start, so that there can be no ambiguity.

First, in response to Mr. Salamé's appeal to the parties on the ground and his request for a very firm message from the Council, I want to express the United Kingdom's very firm support for Mr. Salamé. The United Nations-led process is the only way to ultimately achieve the security and stability that all Libyans deserve.

Secondly, we are extremely clear in our call, which I repeat today, for all those involved in the conflict to commit to an immediate ceasefire, unfettered humanitarian access and a resumption of political talks facilitated by Mr. Salamé. I would like to really stress those points, and I invite all Council members to do likewise, so that there is no doubt about the strength of feeling of the Council on those issues and the importance of unity within the Council.

We are very concerned as the briefings, including from the African Union Commissioner, implied that the security and humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate. As I said, that is alarming. There can be no military solution and there certainly will not be anything like a clean victory for any party in Libya. The protracted and worsening violence, as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General said, certainly does not benefit ordinary people in Libya, and we really need to put them front and centre of what we are doing.

I would like to turn to the arms embargo. All Member States have an obligation under resolution

1970 (2011). We know, as we heard earlier, that ships may even now be on their way to Libyan ports with arms. Flooding Libya with arms is only going to fuel escalation, prolong the conflict and retard progress towards the ceasefire. We therefore call on all Member States to implement the arms embargo in full, and we hope that the Libya Sanctions Committee will continue to do its good work looking at transgressions of the arms embargo.

I believe that we also need to remember that Da'esh and other extremist groups are capitalizing on the chaos in Libya to carry out opportunistic attacks, which ought to worry all of us, particularly those of us that are at direct risk from Da'esh-inspired terrorism. Continued fighting will continue to have a negative impact on the counter-terrorism agenda in Libya, and we need to keep in mind that the people who benefit most from that conflict are actually those extremist groups, which is another sobering point on which we all ought to reflect.

I would like to say a few words about the humanitarian situation and oil. There have been reports of the targeting of civilians. I want to urgently call on all parties to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law and ensure that civilians, civilian infrastructure, medical personnel, facilities and transport vehicles are protected. I want to underscore the obligations in resolution 2286 (2016) about not targeting health workers and detention centres. I want to stress the need for the greatest possible humanitarian access on the ground.

The Special Representative mentioned the oil situation. We believe that it is essential that all Libya's oil exports remain under the supervision of the National Oil Corporation of Tripoli, in accordance with the Council's resolutions. Any attempt by the parties to the conflict to divert Libya's oil resources for their own ends again needs to be addressed by the Libya Sanctions Committee.

We heard a little bit about Mr. Kartas from the German representative. We have supported the United Nations in that, and we continue to support the United Nations. We have heard reports of his safe release, but I would like to underscore that United Nations personnel carry immunity. They work for the United Nations, and the United Nations works for the benefit of all citizens in those countries where it is situated. We call on Member States to respect that.

In conclusion, the safety of United Nations personnel in general is of great concern to us. A ceasefire and a return to the United Nations-led political process are the only way to end the bloodshed in Libya and chart a way forward before the situation collapses into an even more deadly and chaotic conflict. As penholder, we will continue to engage Council members on a way forward and the appropriate steps that the Council can take in support of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

Mr. Alotaibi (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Mr. Ghassan Salamé, as well as the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Mr. Smaïl Chergui, for their briefings, which come at a time of difficult circumstances in sisterly Libya. I would also thank Ambassador Juergen Schulz, Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya, for his briefing on the latest activities of the Committee.

It is no secret that there has been a great deal of regional and international support for the United Nations, represented by the statement that Mr. Salamé made on 20 March at a recent open meeting of the Security Council (see S/PV.8488), in which the date and place for convening the inclusive national conference that has been so long awaited were determined. That came after many rounds of negotiations with a number of Libyan actors and great effort on the part of the United Nations Mission in Libya for more than a year. The purpose was to ensure the conditions necessary for finding an effective and lasting solution to the conflict, which has now entered its ninth year, and as a way to reach a political settlement that will respect the Libyan national constants.

The international community is ready to hold the national conference and the Security Council also urged its convening in press statement SC/13749, which welcomed the resolve of the Libyan parties to actively and seriously participate in the conference. It further welcomed the visit of Secretary-General António Guterres to Tripoli and Benghazi to pave the way for the conference and encourage all parties to participate in it and accept the envisaged outcome.

However, we were surprised by the military confrontations in and around Tripoli during the first week of April, in which more than 400 people were

killed, more than 2,000 injured and nearly 70,000 displaced. The military clashes spilled over beyond the zones of confrontation, thereby exposing citizens and their property to great danger and hampering the political process. Such repercussions could undermine all the efforts of recent years to end the crisis.

I reiterate what Mr. Salamé said in his briefing to the effect that there will never be a military solution to the crisis. With that in mind, we appeal to all the warring Libyan parties to exercise restraint and respect their commitments under international humanitarian law and international human rights law. We call on them to not target civilians and civilian facilities and to prioritize peaceful solutions based on dialogue and rejecting violence. We ask the Libyan parties to also respond in a constructive and concrete manner to the calls and efforts of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya to implement an immediate ceasefire and de-escalate the military situation.

Furthermore, they must cooperate with the Mission's efforts to establish the necessary guarantees for convening the national conference, which represents a genuine historic opportunity to move on from a past that depleted the resources and capabilities of the Libyan people. The conference also constitutes a promising path towards a better future that can seriously address the differences and the institutional divisions in Libya without excluding or marginalizing any component of Libyan society.

We would also like to mention the increase in terrorism and the growing number of subversive operations by the Da'esh terrorist group, which took advantage of the current security situation and launched a number of terrorist attacks on certain regions in Libya, such as Al-Fuqaha, Sabha and the oil field in Zillah. Those terrorist operations must be condemned by the Security Council and require that all necessary assistance be provided to the relevant Libyan authorities in order to overcome that challenge, which threatens regional and international security and stability. In conclusion, we reiterate our support to the efforts being made by Mr. Ghassan Salamé in order to facilitate the comprehensive political process in Libya according to the United Nations plan. We recognize what he mentioned about the necessity to ensure the security circumstances as a main condition to hold the national conference. We appreciate his tireless efforts in that regard and urge all Libyan parties to demonstrate their goodwill towards a peaceful political solution

and to participate seriously and constructively in the political and security processes in accordance with the arrangements agreed in Paris, Palermo and Abu Dhabi to hold transparent, inclusive and peaceful elections so as to build a united and stable Libya.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Ghassan Salamé, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and Mr. Smaïl Chergui, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, for their briefings, which provided a detailed and informative assessment of the situation and the challenges that we currently face in Libya. I would also like to thank Ambassador Juergen Schulz for his briefing as the German Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya.

I would like to begin by expressing, on behalf of France, our particular gratitude to Special Representative Ghassan Salamé for his presence here among us today and for his commitment and to reiterate to him France's full support in the execution of his mandate as he bravely works with his team in a particularly difficult context and a very fragile political environment.

At the outset, I would particularly like to echo Ghassan Salamé's call for a ceasefire. Given the deadlock in the situation and the risk of escalation, it is imperative to establish a ceasefire without preconditions based on an international monitoring mechanism.

The new developments in the Libyan crisis are particular concerning, as has been said. The fighting has already had worrying humanitarian consequences since the beginning of April, with more than 500 dead and 75,000 displaced, clashes moving to densely populated areas and 3,200 migrants and refugees detained in centres near the fighting. All parties must comply with their obligations towards civilians and civilian infrastructure, as well as humanitarian and health personnel.

The ongoing fighting also jeopardizes the political and diplomatic efforts to implement the United Nations road map. Let us not be mistaken — it is criminal, radical and terrorist groups that are benefiting from the situation, as evidenced by the infiltration, under the guise of defending the Government of National Accord, of radical elements in Tripoli, including individuals under Security Council sanctions, and the recent attacks claimed by Da'esh in the south and centre of the country.

That critical situation threatens to further deteriorate if nothing is done to overcome the current impasse in a context where it is clear that neither side can prevail by force. The continuation of hostilities, or even their spreading to other fronts in Libya, the rearmament of both sides and the increase in terrorist activities pose a major risk to the civilian population and the sustainability of the political process.

Under such conditions, I reiterate that our priority must be the rapid implementation of a lasting ceasefire, without preconditions, which in order to be credible must be supported by an international monitoring mechanism. We must also ensure that humanitarian channels are effectively established so as to facilitate the delivery of aid to all populations in need, including migrants and refugees.

It is also vital that the Libyan stakeholders disassociate themselves fully and unambiguously from terrorist groups both in their public statements and on the ground. Finally, as the Special Representative emphasized, the arms embargo established by the Council must be fully respected and implemented by all the parties.

Without an immediate ceasefire, the conflict could only further threaten international and regional peace and security. The resolution of the conflict and the stabilization of Libya are imperative for the Libyan people, who yearn for peace and stability, and for all of us because Libya is a priority security issue in the fight against terrorism, trafficking and migration management.

In that context, the other imperative is the resumption of political discussions as part of the United Nations-led process. The unconditional ceasefire is only a first step that must be supported by a revival of the political process on the basis of the principles established at the Paris, Palermo and Abu Dhabi meetings. That is the only way to create a new momentum for the holding of general elections as soon as possible to allow Libyans to decide their own destiny in a sovereign manner.

The Abu Dhabi agreement remains a valid basis because it establishes the principles for the reunification of the country and its institutions, paves the way for the formation of a unified Government to prepare for elections, and provides for political control of the military until the elections.

That is why France calls on the Libyan parties to resume talks on that basis, with the assistance of the Special Representative. The United Nations must continue to play a key role in resolving the conflict in Libya through the mediation of Special Representative Ghassan Salamé and with the Council's full support. Within the Council we share significant points of convergence, in particular the observation that the priority is to relaunch the political process, that there is no military solution in Libya and that it is imperative to silence the weapons. Let us build on that convergence in support of the Special Representative.

It is also absolutely essential that the United Nations and its Panel of Experts on Libya be able to carry out their work independently and in appropriate conditions. With regard to the situation of Mr. Moncef Kartas, which the German Chairmanship of the sanctions committee mentioned just now, we are encouraged by the recent developments in Tunis. We thank the United Nations Legal Counsel, Mr. Miguel Ferreira de Serpa Soares, and his teams for their efforts and Tunisia's commitment.

France will resolutely continue its efforts in support of Special Representative Ghassan Salamé to bring the Libyan stakeholders together around an inclusive political solution, leading as soon as possible to the elections demanded by the Libyan people, and to help build a lasting peace in Libya. That is the aim of the efforts being made by President Macron and Minister Le Drian, together with the Libyan parties.

Mr. Ma Zhaoxu (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like at the outset to thank Special Representative Salamé, African Union Commissioner Chergui and Ambassador Schulz for their respective briefings. I commend Mr. Salamé for coming to New York to brief us.

Since early April, the military conflicts that have broken out around Tripoli have resulted in heavy casualties, including civilians. The increasing number of refugees, migrants and displaced persons and the rise in terrorist activities are undermining the stability and development of Libya in the political, security, economic and social areas. They are also spilling over into other areas, such as the Sahel and the Mediterranean coastal region. China is extremely concerned about developments in Libya. The international community should pay increased attention to Libya and work together to reach a solution to the Libyan issue as soon

as possible. In that regard, I shall make the following four points.

First, we must continue to seek a political solution. China has always believed that the Libyan issue must be settled through political means. We hope that the parties to the conflict in Libya will focus on the interests of the country and its people, respond to the calls of the international community, achieve a ceasefire as soon as possible, de-escalate tensions and return to the path leading to settlement through peaceful dialogue and consultation. We must safeguard the safety and security of civilians and try to improve the humanitarian situation.

Secondly, synergy must be created. The international community should respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Libya. Countries with influence should play an active role and exert their influence by encouraging the Libyan parties to resolve their differences and build mutual trust and by providing constructive assistance to the parties in achieving a ceasefire and resuming political dialogue.

Thirdly, we must strengthen coordination. China supports the active promotion of the political settlement process in Libya, under United Nations leadership, and the good offices of Secretary-General Guterres and Special Representative Salamé. My country supports the active role of regional organizations, such as the African Union, and hopes that the relevant mechanisms will fully leverage their advantages and enhance coordination and cooperation.

Fourthly, the issue of sanctions should be properly handled. We have always believed that sanctions are not an end in themselves, but rather a means. They should always serve to reach a political solution to the problems at hand. While maintaining the enforcement of sanctions on Libya, it is imperative to ensure avoiding their negative impact on its civilian population and third countries. The overall interests of the Libyan nation and the day-to-day life and humanitarian needs of its people should not be undermined.

China stands willing to work with the international community in an active and concerted effort to achieve lasting peace and stability in Libya.

Mr. Adom (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I thank Mr. Ghassan Salamé for his excellent briefing on the current state of the security and humanitarian situation and the political process in

Libya, as well as the activities carried out under the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya. I offer him our full support and the encouragement of my country, Côte d'Ivoire. I also thank Mr. Smaïl Chergui for the quality of his briefing. Lastly, I thank Ambassador Juergen Schulz, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya, for his presentation of the thirty-fourth periodic report on the Committee's work.

Côte d'Ivoire is attentively following developments in the situation in Libya and notes with deep concern the impasse that has reigned since the beginning of the armed clashes over control of Tripoli. After more than six weeks of fighting and the tragic toll of 450 deaths, more than 2,000 injured and 63,000 displaced persons, the prospects for a resumption of the intra-Libyan political dialogue are becoming dangerously remote. Equally worrisome is the insidious establishment and entrenchment of religious groups, in particular the Islamic State, in areas outside State control. If the crisis persists, those groups, fuelled by radical ideology and rhetoric, could exacerbate tribal divisions and pose another major challenge to the return of lasting peace and stability in Libya that we are seeking.

Côte d'Ivoire therefore condemns the armed clashes between the forces of the Government of National Accord and those of General Haftar, the humanitarian consequences of which have been particularly devastating. While expressing its solidarity with the brotherly Libyan people at this particularly difficult time, my country once again reiterates its call on the United Nations and the African Union to pursue their mediation efforts and good offices to the parties to the conflict in order to reach an immediate ceasefire and resume dialogue among all Libyan parties. While Côte d'Ivoire recalls that the way out of the crisis and the dawn of lasting peace and stability in Libya depend on robust, constructive and inclusive dialogue among all stakeholders, my country remains convinced that the continuing deterioration of the social, political and humanitarian situation in Libya requires the prompt implementation of resolution 2420 (2018), especially its provisions concerning the arms embargo.

It is also beyond question that the fighting around Tripoli is affecting the country's oil industry, thereby further depressing an already devastated economy and exacerbating the ongoing humanitarian crisis. In that regard, it is appropriate to recall that the export

of Libyan petroleum is the exclusive responsibility of the National Oil Corporation. The Council's message to the Libyan parties must therefore be imbued with firmness regarding their obligation to respect human rights and international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians and humanitarian personnel.

Côte d'Ivoire also echoes the call of the African Union Peace and Security Council on the Libyan parties to focus on the plight of the thousands of migrants in detention camps in close proximity to the areas of fighting. As Commissioner Chergui mentioned earlier, some Africans are now being used as human shields in the fighting around Tripoli, which must alarm us and heighten our attention to the matter. In that regard, Côte d'Ivoire welcomes the assistance of bilateral partners, including the Government of Germany, whose recent donation of €3 million to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Libya will undoubtedly contribute to the increased protection of refugees and displaced persons.

The joint communiqué issued at the end of the third African Union-United Nations Annual Conference, held on 6 May, highlights the complementary roles played by regional organizations and actors in the resolution of the Libyan conflict. Above all, it recalls the need for the international community to act urgently to send an unequivocal message with regard to the need for an immediate ceasefire and the imperative of a single road map for Libya.

The current instability in Libya clearly poses a threat to peace and regional and international security, particularly for the sub-Saharan African countries that are struggling to find adequate responses to the progressive entrenchment and deadly attacks of jihadist groups. That is why Côte d'Ivoire unreservedly supports the call on the international community, launched at the meeting of the Heads of State of the Group of Five for the Sahel, to fully acknowledge the regional and international scale of the Libyan crisis and to harmonize the efforts of all the countries concerned to achieve a lasting settlement to the conflict in Libya.

Mr. Cohen (United States of America): I thank Special Representative Salamé, Commissioner Chergui and Ambassador Schulz for their briefings today.

The United States condemns in the strongest terms the two terrorist attacks on the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali last weekend that killed one Nigerian peacekeeper

and wounded several others. We send our condolences and sympathy to the family of the Nigerian peacekeeper who was killed and wish a speedy and full recovery to those who were injured.

Turning back to Libya, foremost on our minds is the safety of United Nations personnel and civilians on the ground. We strongly support the personal leadership of Special Representative Salamé in promoting a political solution and attempting to reduce the violence in Libya. We welcome the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) to chart a path forward that will provide security and prosperity to all Libyans.

The continuing instability in Tripoli is endangering civilians, damaging civilian infrastructure, creating opportunities for terrorists to regroup and fuelling a worsening humanitarian situation. Lasting peace and stability will come only through a political solution. All parties should return to United Nations political mediation, the success of which depends on a ceasefire in and around Tripoli. The humanitarian situation is alarming, and we commend the ongoing efforts to address the humanitarian dimension of this conflict.

We call on all sides to avoid further escalation and work constructively with the Special Representative and UNSMIL to achieve a long-overdue political solution to this conflict. The United States stands ready to provide all appropriate assistance as UNSMIL works to help Libyans return to the political process and de-escalate the conflict in Tripoli.

Mr. Safronkov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank Mr. Ghassan Salamé, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and Mr. Smaïl Chergui, the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, for their detailed briefings. We support Mr. Salamé's work and will continue to help him. We want to affirm to Mr. Chergui that the Russian Federation has always emphasized the crucial role of the African Union in settling crises on the continent, including the one in Libya. We thank the German delegation for its leadership of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya, which has come at a difficult stage in the Libyan settlement.

We are sorry to have to conclude that the escalation in greater Tripoli, and in Libya as a whole, is not improving. Like other members of the international community, Russia is deeply concerned. The bitter truth is that this country, which was until quite recently

a stable and prosperous North African State, has descended into chaos. It has no Government for all practical purposes and has been fractured for a number of years. It is being used as a transit and migration area. It is a source of destabilizing influences on neighbouring regions on both sides of the Mediterranean. Anyone who believes that Libya's problems began only this spring is deeply mistaken. Libya's situation today is a result of geopolitical engineering and the policies of regime change that various countries decided to implement in 2011. We have only one purpose in pointing this out. The situation that has arisen in Libya should be a constant reminder of the bankruptcy of the concept of outside armed incursions, which lead to the dismantling of Government institutions and the emergence of failed States.

We have to learn from mistakes, which means that now, in the active phase of the conflict, we have to work with all the parties involved without preferring any one of them over the others. That is the only way to end the military confrontation. Attempts to hold only one of the players responsible will only deepen the confrontation and worsen the prospects for resuming the political process. We are confident that Mr. Salamé will be guided by that approach. We must continue humanitarian assistance to all Libyans who need it and ensure unimpeded and non-discriminatory access for humanitarian personnel.

Russia will continue to appeal to all of Libya's military and political forces and to its influential figures to cease military actions, refrain from aggressive statements and sit down at the negotiating table in order to re-establish the trust that has been so undermined, step by step. To do that, narrow interests must be set aside and we must work based on the principle that Libya and its people come first. For that, we must refrain from plans that involve constant intervention in internal affairs and remember that Libya's natural wealth belongs exclusively to the Libyan people. In our view, there is no alternative to a political settlement. We must refrain from the use of force and work to unite the efforts of all Libyan forces in the interests of the rapid restoration of national institutions that are capable of dealing effectively with the immediate priorities, including the fight against terrorism. Unfortunately, that threat is still a powerful one and requires the unification of all political forces. One of the most urgent tasks on the agenda is the establishment of united, viable State institutions, including the army

and security forces. It is Libyans themselves who must take those decisions. Succumbing to any temptations or attempts to impose the parameters for that process from the outside will inevitably be counterproductive, and we will repudiate them.

We are coordinating our efforts with international and regional partners on a bilateral and multilateral basis. The situation in Libya was a subject of discussion during the Russian-Arab Cooperation Forum in Moscow. We are constantly analysing it in our daily contacts with representatives of the African Union, and we have reached an agreement on working together on a Libyan settlement. Our shared goal is helping Libyans to overcome their differences and emerge with a sustainable agreement on the main issue, which is national reconciliation. There have been previous steps taken in that direction in Paris, Palermo and Abu Dhabi, but the commitments made then have unfortunately remained on paper.

The regional actors have an important role to play in encouraging Libyans to end the bloodshed and resume negotiations. We note the leading role that the African Union has taken in giving the Libyan settlement new momentum, including through the conference in Addis Ababa planned for July. We firmly believe that all the international efforts to restore peace and unity to Libya must ideally be harmonized, and we emphasize once again that a political settlement should not be an issue for competition.

Much has been said today about the role played by Special Representative Salamé in arranging a harmonized system for finding a long-term solution to the Libyan conflict, as I just mentioned. But we should all remember from our own experience that for the task of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya to be feasible, it must be able to rely on the consolidated support of international and regional players and all of Libya's political actors. It requires a comprehensive approach. Attempts to approach the situation selectively will not work, and neither will attempts to act based on the principle that what is permissible for some is not permissible for others. All stakeholders, without exception, must comply with the arms embargo.

Russia and Libya are linked by deep historic ties. The relations between our States have always been defined by mutual respect. That is why we have been able to maintain contact with all political forces throughout the crisis in Libya. Russia will continue to restore stability

in Libya, including by supporting Mr. Salamé's efforts. However, we will be strictly guided in that by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, such as the duty to ensure the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya. We encourage everyone to work on that basis.

Ms. Bekwa (South Africa): South Africa thanks Special Representative Ghassan Salamé, Ambassador Smaïl Chergui, the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, and Ambassador Juergen Schulz for their briefings.

My delegation commends Secretary-General António Guterres and Mr. Salamé for their tireless efforts in bringing together all parties and stakeholders to reach an agreement on the peace process in Libya, and extends its full support for their efforts. We particularly commend the work of the African Union Ad Hoc High-level Committee on Libya, under the leadership of President Sassou Nguesso, and call for greater cooperation and collaboration between the African Union (AU) and the United Nations in finding a lasting solution to the crisis and in support of a single road map in pursuit of peace and stability in Libya.

South Africa remains concerned about the worsening security and humanitarian situation in Tripoli. South Africa calls on each of the parties to reduce tensions and exercise restraint so as to prevent destruction and loss of life in the capital and the continued suffering of civilians and migrants. We reiterate that all parties and stakeholders must commit to building durable peace in Libya on the basis of inclusive political dialogue. We particularly urge the parties to commit fully to the ceasefire agreement reached in September 2018 and to avoid any further escalation of violence. In that regard, South Africa will continue to support the convening of a Libyan national peace and reconciliation forum, preceded by a national dialogue conference, in order to unify the people of Libya. We are therefore deeply concerned about the postponement of the process due to the increased fighting in and around Tripoli. Where could we be if things were normal according to the time frames set?

We support the ongoing efforts of the AU through its Peace and Security Council, the AU Ad Hoc High-level Committee on Libya and the commitment of the AU High Representative for Libya as they continue to engage with the main stakeholders in the country. The Security Council must support all efforts to bring

about a peaceful settlement of the dispute and promote political dialogue.

In terms of the progress report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya, South Africa views sanctions not as an end in and of themselves but rather as a tool to accompany a political process towards peace and post-conflict. While some elements of the sanctions may assist in providing the necessary momentum towards the desired outcome, the focus should be on creating an enabling environment that promotes conditions for a peace process and addresses the root causes of the conflict. However, given the recent escalation in military confrontation, South Africa views the implementation of the arms embargo, renewed under resolution 2420 (2018), as an important part in preventing illicit flows of arms into Libya, which increases the risk of arms proliferation and further fuels instability in the Sahel.

We call on all parties supplying arms to the protagonists in Libya to keep an inventory of such supplies so as to fully account for them post-conflict. We need to avoid the situation of the past whereby tons and tons of weapons, ammunitions and explosives were dropped to groups fighting the regime of that time. Those arms have subsequently found their way into the greater Sahel, resulting in what we are witnessing today in Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, Nigeria, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire.

Ms. Wronecka (Poland): At the outset, let me thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ghassan Salamé and African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security Smaïl Chergui for their comprehensive if very alarming briefings on recent developments in Libya. I especially welcome Mr. Salamé's presence in the Council today and thank him for his tireless efforts. Allow me also to thank Ambassador Juergen Schulz for his helpful briefing on the ongoing work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya and to congratulate him on his leadership.

Poland remains gravely concerned about prolonged clashes in and around Tripoli, especially by the use of airplanes, drones and rocket artillery. We condemn the growing number of attacks on the civilian population and civilian infrastructure and confirm our position that all parties to the conflict must comply with their obligations under international law, in particular international humanitarian law and international

human rights law. Therefore, we call on all parties to immediately implement a ceasefire and to engage with the United Nations to ensure a full and comprehensive cessation of hostilities.

We also call on all parties to fully respect the arms embargo and refrain from taking any action that could further undermine the United Nations-facilitated political dialogue. In that context, we must underscore the meaningful role of the Panel of Experts in the work of the Sanctions Committee. Its independence and autonomy are essential for its undisturbed work and that of the Sanctions Committee and the Council.

The recent terrorist attack in Sebha serves as a strong reminder that terrorist groups will exploit every opportunity to expand their presence in Libya. In that regard, all parties should dissociate themselves from terrorist and criminal elements involved in the fighting.

In conclusion, we believe that the conflict in Libya should be resolved only by peaceful means, since power gained by force will not achieve long-lasting stability and prosperity for Libyans. In that regard, Poland fully supports all efforts by Special Representative Salamé and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, under challenging circumstances, aimed at finding a comprehensive political solution to the current crisis and bringing security, political and economic stability and national unity to Libya.

Mr. Ugarelli (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's meeting. We also thank Mr. Ghassan Salamé, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya; Ambassador Juergen Schulz, Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya; and Mr. Smaïl Chergui, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, for their excellent briefings.

Peru reiterates its deep concern about the armed conflict ravaging Libya, which claims lives every day and is causing tragic humanitarian consequences and having a devastating effect on the country's economy. Given the situation, there is no better alternative than immediately devising a political solution, in line with the progress made at the Abu Dhabi conference. As such, we believe that the institution of an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and the return to the dialogue table are priorities. It is clear that the aggressive rhetoric and individual interests must be transformed into concrete measures for the welfare and protection

of the civilian population. To that end, the support of the international community is necessary, especially that of the countries with the ability to influence the parties, while transcending strategic and economic considerations and avoiding the power vacuum that terrorist and extremist groups have taken advantage of, as mentioned by the Special Representative and other delegations.

We are particularly troubled by the manifest violations of the arms embargo in ungoverned territory. One need only observe — with alarm — the recent offloading of armoured vehicles at a Tripoli port. These are situations that serve only to prolong the conflict, to the detriment of the direct interests of the civilian population. Most of Libya's current revenues are mostly directed towards weapons purchases.

In that context, and faced with the forced displacement of tens of thousands of people and hundreds of deaths, we emphasize the responsibility of the Council to protect the civilian population from the occurrence of atrocious crimes. That implies, among other things, ensuring mandatory compliance with the provisions of international humanitarian law in all conflicts, including the Libyan conflict, without distinction or double standards. It also implies the necessary attribution of accountability for those crimes, starting with the deliberate and reprehensible attacks against the civilian population and vital infrastructure. Those crimes should be tried within the Libyan justice system and, in a complementary manner, by the International Criminal Court.

In conclusion, Peru reiterates its firm support for the efforts aimed at preventing further fragmentation of the country and, through a political solution, at returning to the path on which progress had been made following the tireless efforts of Special Representative Salamé, to whom we reiterate our strongest support.

Mr. Singer Weisinger (Dominican Republic) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank the speakers for their valuable briefings this morning. We also commend the mediation efforts undertaken by Mr. Salamé and his team at the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) to reduce tensions and resolve conflicts in that nation. The Dominican Republic fully supports Mr. Salamé.

Just two months ago we felt optimistic about Libya. We harboured the hope that a political solution would be reached, and trusted that the national conference

would be held in the second week of April, bringing the day of reconciliation closer. Those hopes are currently dissolving because Libya is once again at the door of widespread conflagration. The manifestation of these military offensives erodes the progress made, which has been facilitated mainly by the United Nations Support Mission. In addition, the outbreak of violence constitutes a danger for regional and international peace and security.

For that reason, we call for the cessation of all violence, not just military offensives but also the aggressive rhetoric that fuels tensions. We also urge the parties to the conflict, in particular the Libyan National Army, led by General Haftar, to resume dialogue, with a view to finding a solution to this situation and resuming the political process. We also call on the parties to commit to protecting civilians and civilian infrastructure, as well as to allow, without discrimination, access to humanitarian aid to the areas affected by the conflict, in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law. Furthermore, we call on the parties to establish safe and unimpeded mechanisms to assist the civilian population, including access by medical personnel.

An example of how this conflict worsens the living conditions of the population can be found in the actions carried out by armed men last Sunday. They occupied a station of the pipeline network project that transports groundwater from the Sahara to the western region of the country. Their objective was to deprive hundreds of thousands of Libyans of the supply of that resource, and they threatened not to restore the service until their demands were met. That atrocious act constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law, which we categorically condemn. We demand that the parties refrain from attacking infrastructure that is essential to the survival of the population.

Likewise, given the reported allegations of violations involving advanced technology artillery and vehicles, including unmanned vehicles, being used by the parties to the conflict, we encourage the international community to respect the obligations established in the arms embargo. Member States have the responsibility to comply with the provisions outlined in the Libya sanctions regime and refrain from supplying, selling or transferring any type of weaponry and munitions and their related materials, without exception. Likewise, we encourage States that produce and import weapons, munitions and related materials to strengthen the rules

of transfer and control mechanisms in order to prevent zones of conflict from being the final destination of weapons, thereby avoiding irresponsible transfers and helping to save lives and to de-escalate the situation.

In barely a month and a half the conflict has intensified, leaving 510 people dead and 2,467 injured, with the number of the displaced rising to 75,000. The continuation of this conflict could mean that the mass exodus will soon be the next great humanitarian crisis in the region. We also express our serious concern that this situation may allow extremist groups to recapture an area from which they had been expelled with very great effort. The Council should therefore not remain impassive. The voice of the Council must be united in order to stop what is currently unfolding in Tripoli and its environs. We cannot underestimate the fragility of the country's social cohesion, which could not survive this conflict or the potential severity of the humanitarian impact.

On another note, we condemn the attacks, intimidation and violence against human rights defenders, including journalists, and we hope that the crimes committed against human rights defenders will be investigated. We believe that civil society organizations are autonomous and play a fundamental role in the functioning of a democracy. They must therefore not be restricted, with or without the consent of internal forces in Libya, when they want to reach out to the international community and carry out their work with communities and citizens.

We ask the parties to prioritize the protection of children at all times, while adhering to international humanitarian law, and to cease immediately the recruitment of children to be used as soldiers in the conflict. We also ask for the immediate release of any child who has been detained owing to their association, or presumed association, with armed groups.

The Dominican Republic is convinced that the solution to the Libyan conflict should be political and not military, and that such a solution should be reached through consensus among the parties. We recognize and appreciate the courage, determination and commitment that the UNSMIL team, led by Mr. Salamé, demonstrate on the ground at this crucial time.

Finally, like other colleagues, we welcome the release of Mr. Moncef Kartas, who had been detained in Tunis in the exercise of his functions as a member of the Panel of Experts of the Sanctions Committee on

Libya. We hope that light will be shed on this case as swiftly as possible.

Mrs. Van Vlierberge (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, may I warmly thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Salamé, for his statement and for joining us this morning. I wish to thank him in particular for his work and his tireless commitment as well as that of his Mission's personnel, all of whom are working in a particularly difficult environment. I also thank Commissioner Chergui and Ambassador Schulz for their informative briefings.

The fighting began around two months ago and has continued despite several calls for a humanitarian ceasefire. Belgium supports those calls and deplores the fact that they have been rejected. It is becoming ever more clear to all of us that the military situation is at an impasse. This is, unfortunately, exactly what many of us had feared.

Today's briefing quite rightly reminds us that it is Libyan civilians as well as the most vulnerable migrants who are paying the heaviest price for the rejection of a political solution. Belgium calls on all parties to respect their commitments under international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians. In particular, we call on the parties to refrain from any serious violations with regard to children, including recruiting them and using them in combat. Belgium commends the courage of humanitarian and medical personnel, who are paying a high price for their determination.

At this stage, the major beneficiaries of the current situation are terrorists. The military option will lead only to chaos and to the destabilization of the country by allowing Da'esh to resort to guerrilla strategies; this is a fundamental threat to the progress made.

Beyond assigning responsibility for the fighting, Belgium would recall that those who are guilty of grave violations of international humanitarian law and, more broadly, those who threaten the peace in Libya should be held accountable for their actions. All leaders, military and civilian, who have control, authority or effective command over their subordinates could be held criminally responsible for the crimes committed by the latter and could be prosecuted in national courts or the International Criminal Court.

Belgium supports the work of the Special Representative and of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya and calls on the parties to return to

the negotiating table without preconditions. The need for a ceasefire remains urgent.

Finally, Belgium calls for strict respect by all parties of the arms embargo imposed by the Council. Violations of the embargo have, as Mr. Salamé underlined, prolonged the conflict and the suffering of the Libyan people. In this regard, we should underscore the vital work being done by the Libya Panel of Experts, created by resolution 1973 (2011), with which the Council has exhorted all States to Cooperate fully. In that regard, we are encouraged by the recent report from Tunisia of the freeing of one of the experts, who had been detained for a number of weeks despite his immunity.

In conclusion, I should to underscore, as did my French colleague, the fact that there is a convergence of ideas in the Council on the situation in Libya, and I hope that the Council will be able to pronounce itself very soon through the adoption of a resolution.

Mr. Sipaco Ribala (Equatorial Guinea) (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish at the outset to thank Mr. Ghassan Salamé, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, for his comprehensive briefing. We take this opportunity to wish him the blessings of peace and calm in Libya during this holy month of Ramadan, to the extent possible, and reiterate our strong support for him and for the entire Mission team in their difficult task of achieving a peaceful, negotiated political solution in Libya, despite the difficult situation in the country, especially in Tripoli, the result of the escalation of the military offensive that began on 4 April.

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Mr. Smaïl Chergui, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, to whom we express our deepest gratitude for voicing in this Chamber an African perspective on today's topic of discussion. We welcome his contribution and hope that in future such input will continue, given the need for partnership and coordination between the United Nations and the African Union in addressing issues of this nature in the context of all the crises facing the African continent.

We further convey our gratitude to Ambassador Schulz, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya, for his briefing.

Eight years after the crisis began, the situation in Libya, far from having improved, is deteriorating

by the hour, which is causing us a heightened sense of alarm. The exacerbation of the crisis lays bare the Council's difficulty in finding a solution to the conflict, which could have been averted in the first place, as we have stated previously, which is why there is a need to redouble our efforts to get the process back on the track of dialogue and find a political solution as quickly as possible.

In the light of the aforementioned, and echoing the communiqué issued by the African Union on 24 April, we reiterate the call for an immediate cessation of hostilities and for respect for the sovereignty and unity of Libya and for the protection of civilians and migrants. We would also remind the parties of their obligation to respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law in order to guarantee the security of civilians.

We take this opportunity to reiterate our rejection of any external interference, encouraging third parties to bring their influence to bear so as to achieve an immediate cessation of hostilities, rather than stoking tensions. Such interference only makes the situation worse, and the Council must take this fact into account and undertake the appropriate measures in response. Actions of this kind must be condemned and totally eradicated. In that respect, we believe that the Security Council must undertake a process of in-depth reflection on the continuing violations of the arms embargo, as this is yet another element that adds complexity to the conflict.

To conclude, I would like to underscore my delegation's concern about the humanitarian situation, which is reaching alarming proportions. The death toll stands at almost 500 people in Tripoli alone, and more than 75,000 persons have been displaced, according to official figures. These numbers will only increase if we fail to find an immediate solution. We reiterate that there can be no military solution to this conflict.

The ongoing human rights violations remain on the agenda, in particular the plight of the more than 6,800 migrants and internally displaced persons being held in detention centres by armed groups and traffickers. The Libyan people require unflinching international support in order to address the crisis through dialogue, reverting to the framework of the United Nations action plan, as had been envisaged.

Mr. Schulz (Germany): First of all, let me thank our briefers for their informative, albeit sobering and, indeed, alarming briefings.

We are gravely concerned about the continuation of the conflict and its potential for local and regional escalation of violence. It is the responsibility of all sides to do whatever is possible to avoid further escalation and seek a peaceful solution to the conflict. As we have learned once again from today's briefing, this conflict encourages and strengthens terrorists and extremists, primarily at the expense of the civilian population.

The conflict in Libya has caused a humanitarian disaster. More than 75,000 people have fled their homes and more than 400 people have been killed since the beginning of the conflict. In addition, the plight of many refugees and migrants in Libya is of particular concern, especially those held in so-called detention centres. Some of them are located in direct proximity to the fighting.

We strongly condemn and are appalled by the attacks civilians, civilian infrastructure and health workers. We call upon all parties to the conflict to abide by international humanitarian law and secure and ensure safe and sustainable humanitarian access.

Let me also say that many local civil society organizations are doing incredibly important work on the ground in the current difficult environment. In particular, I would like to highlight the work of human rights defenders, who often speak out in spite of considerable risks to their personal safety. Germany condemns attacks, intimidation and violence against human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders and journalists.

We urge all parties to return to the negotiating table and commit to an immediate ceasefire, as proposed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The Council must send a clear signal to the Libyan stakeholders — stop military offensives and work towards a political solution. We would like to reiterate our strong support to the Special Representative and the United Nations-led peace process, which we see as the only way forward to tangible results. We support the Special Representative's call for a Council resolution, which should include three main elements — first, an immediate ceasefire; secondly, the resumption of the political process; and, thirdly, strict implementation of the arms embargo.

On the resumption of the political process, we still believe that an including format, such as the national conference, offers the best chance for a peaceful and inclusive solution. We must return to the inclusive political process, which the Special Representative has been continuously working towards, as quickly as possible.

On the issue of the arms embargo, the alarming and seemingly endless amount of arms used in Libya is truly shocking and contributes to further escalation of the conflict. Increasing numbers of heavy weapons are being brought into Libya, despite the arms embargo imposed by the Council. The enormous influx of arms made available to parties to the conflict is one of the core causes of the humanitarian disaster in Libya, and we are gravely concerned about the ongoing violations. We urge all State and non-State actors to immediately take the necessary measures to ensure the strict implementation of the arms embargo.

Before I conclude, I would like to refer to the case of Mr. Moncef Kartas, a member of the Panel Of Experts on the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011). The arrest and detention of Mr. Kartas is a very serious concern for us, since he enjoys immunity from arrest and detention in his capacity as a United Nations expert on mission. The immunity of United Nations staff and experts is an important element of our multilateral system. It must be protected and upheld. We are encouraged by the most recent news from Tunis in that regard. We look forward to receiving more detailed information on the way forward.

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

At the outset, we would like to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ghassan Salamé, Commissioner Chergui and Ambassador Schulz for their briefings. We had hoped that Mr. Salamé would have come in person last month to bring us good news, but apparently he has come to the Security Council today to bring us grim news.

Indonesia would like to join others in expressing its deep concern about the situation in Libya. I would like to bring four points to the attention of the Council.

First, Indonesia calls for the cessation of hostilities in Libya. We reiterate the call of the Security Council on 10 May for all parties to commit to a ceasefire and

de-escalation and to return to the United Nations-led political mediation. We also reiterate that lasting peace and stability in Libya will come about only through a political solution. No military solution will help. We welcome the efforts made by Special Representative of the Secretary-General Salamé to restore a unified international position on Libya to end its current crisis. The Council has repeatedly shown its support for the work of the Special Representative and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, and today Indonesia would like to affirm its continued support. We call on all partners — the United Nations and regional organizations, including the African Union — to continue their support and their work in pursuing peace in Libya.

Secondly, Indonesia supports the convening of the Libyan national conference. Although the scheduled time for the national conference in April has come and gone, we should not forget that we were once there. We can come back to that point and pick up where we left off. Indonesia supports the convening of the national conference as soon as possible so that the Libyans can peacefully discuss the future of Libya, but we need a ceasefire in order for that to happen.

Thirdly, Indonesia would also like to reiterate its call for a humanitarian pause during the month of Ramadan. We are closely following the reports from Libya. Sad to say, the numbers are disheartening. On 17 May, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that 126 civilians had been killed, including 29 confirmed civilian deaths; more than 75,000 people had been internally displaced due to ongoing hostilities, 48 per cent of whom were children. It is estimated that 100,000 men, women and children remain trapped in immediate front-line areas, with over 400,000 more in areas directly impacted by clashes, as mentioned by the Special Representative. Water and electricity cuts are being reported from front-line areas, while market access and the availability of food is very limited. Every day of violence means more people killed, injured or displaced. Every day of inaction in the Council will lead to more deaths. The situation is indeed deteriorating, and it must stop. We must heed Mr. Salamé's warning on the danger of civil war, which would ultimately affect women, children and other civilians. Nothing is more tragic than brothers and sisters fighting one another.

Finally, Indonesia calls for the protection of civilians in Tripoli and throughout the rest of Libya. We are

saddened by the increasing number of civilian casualties in this crisis. Nevertheless, we are also concerned for the safety of United Nations personnel, as well as the medical and humanitarian workers on the ground. We hear from Special Representative Salamé that there are attacks on health facilities and ambulances, which is in violation of resolution 2286 (2016). It is important for all parties to respect international humanitarian law and human rights, and not target civilians or humanitarian workers. Efforts should be made to help those in need, and such efforts should be facilitated in order to reach them and save innocent lives.

In conclusion, I call on all parties in Libya and all countries that care for the people and children of Libya to silence the guns and give peace a chance so that the men, women and children of Libya can enjoy the end of Ramadan and celebrate the festive day of Eid al-Fitr this year and many years to come.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Libya.

Mr. Elmajerbi (Libya) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to begin by thanking you, Mr. President, for organizing today's meeting. I would also like to thank Mr. Ghassan Salamé, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his briefing on the serious developments in Tripoli for more than 50 days now. I also thank Mr. Smaïl Chergui, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, for his briefing, as well as Ambassador Juergen Schulz for the summary he presented on the activities of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011).

Eight years have passed since the Security Council took up an agenda item entitled "The situation in Libya". Serious events have taken place during that time. The Council has adopted a number of resolutions and presidential statements calling for establishing peace and security in my country. The Council has sent a full political Mission, led by Special Representative Salamé, to provide support to the Libyan people and end their ordeal. The Mission has made tremendous efforts, which culminated in the signing of Skhirat Political Agreement in 2015.

Following the signing of this Agreement, the Presidency Council was formed in Tripoli and recognized by the international community. Since then,

the Government of my country has spared no effort to establish stability throughout Libya by addressing with four main topics, namely, security, the economy, the situation in the south of the country and the preparations for the elections.

There has been notable progress in the country with the establishment of security arrangements, in close cooperation with the international community, in terms of eliminating weapons, re-establishing public order and ensuring the gradual return of State institutions. Among the first goals set by the institutions was the fight against terrorism, in line with their prerogatives and consistent with the United Nations Global Counterterrorism Strategy. National security forces — unified and enhanced forces exclusively under the authority of the Government of National Accord — were set up. The terrorist group Da'esh was eradicated in Sirte and other areas of the country, thanks to the sacrifice of our young people who paid the ultimate price in removing that cancer from Libya.

There has also been strategic cooperation with the United States, and we joined the international counterterrorism coalition. My country has also honoured its international commitments under the Government of National Accord, in particular with respect to chemical weapons, as was certified by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in January 2018. We saw the elimination of tons of chemical weapons, thanks to international support. We also made achievements in terms of human rights and migration, including efforts made by the Libyan Coast Guard, with its meagre resources, to save thousands of migrants off the Libyan coast — again, working with international organizations on a daily basis.

I would also like to mention the economy, which in turn has also seen noteworthy progress thanks to a reform programme that aimed to decrease spending, increase State revenue and support the national oil company. My country's Government was able to increase oil production, reduce our deficit and lower inflation rates, while also responding to the basic needs of citizens, in particular their need for food and medicines, while working towards future economic reform. Those are some of the efforts that have been made.

The Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord showed great flexibility in the meetings held in Paris, Palermo and Abu Dhabi. We continued dialogue with those we thought are our partners in

the political process, in cooperation with the United Nations. As Libyans began to see the first signs of a better future, following Mr. Salamé's announcement of the upcoming national conference and the Secretary-General's visit to Libya, Haftar launched his traitorous aggression against Tripoli, where one third of the Libyan population lives. His forces continue to commit violations that constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. They have arbitrarily bombed civilian areas, including schools, warehouses and civil airports. That has led to more than 500 persons killed to date and nearly 3,000 injured, as well as more than 100,000 persons displaced. Those violations also include the recruitment of children, the torture and murder of detainees in cold blood and the kidnapping of journalists covering the war. For example, two journalists, Mohamed Al-Qurj and Mohamed Al-Shibani, were kidnapped two weeks ago. We hope to ascertain their fate as soon as possible.

The list of violations is very long, to which must be added an unprecedented crime, namely, that water supplies to the capital from the south of Tripoli, where Haftar's forces are based, have been cut off. The toll of the violations has been heavy and well-documented. We sent a letter to the Security Council calling for a fact-finding commission to verify those abuses and violations. We have also asked that the countries backing the aggression be identified. According to confessions by aggressors, it appears that those countries are providing military support.

The military arsenal being used in the aggression is evident. It is clear to everybody that some countries have been providing the aggressors with weapons of all kinds for years — planes, missiles and modern equipment — in flagrant violation of the Security Council resolutions. That has also been documented in the reports of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1973 (2011). How long are the violations going to continue without any response, although everybody knows who is involved? They are preventing Libyans from finding a solution. Their actions fly in the face of international laws and resolutions. The support given to the aggressors is prolonging the war, killing more civilians and destroying infrastructure, while also undermining the social fabric and worsening the future of our country and our relations with other countries.

The Government of National Accord has a sovereign right to defend its citizens, and we emphasize that we are going to continue to fight terrorism wherever it exists on Libyan soil. Unfortunately, aggression and the

security situation have allowed for the return of Da'esh, which we had fought and expelled from Sirte and other Libyan cities. There have been nearly 800 martyrs and thousands of people injured.

Some say that this aggression on Tripoli is aimed at fighting terrorism, even though the forces that are defending the city are the ones that liberated Sirte from Da'esh. Recently, there was a series of terrorist attacks by Da'esh in the south on the cities of Sabha, Ghodwa and Zalla, among others, which were a consequence of the aggression against Tripoli. Where are Haftar's forces — those forces that claim they liberated those cities? We believe that Haftar's forces aroused tribal conflicts and tensions that we have tried for years to calm through various measures and a national campaign that included security, services and social assistance.

Unfortunately, this war is a flagrant failure of the United Nations to meet its commitments to Libya, a country that occupies an important place on the Organization's agenda. The Security Council's mandate is to maintain international peace and security, but the Council has not been able to do that. It has not been able to end this aggression or to ensure that its resolutions are respected. They have been violated by many countries in the form of negative intervention in Libya and not safeguarding civilians from violations and acts of aggression.

The Government of National Accord believes that it is incumbent upon the Security Council today to shoulder its historic responsibility to correct the situation. The Council should, more than ever, do more than just express its concern. It should implement its resolutions and name and condemn the aggressor, while

also forcing his forces to stand down. There is no sense in treating the aggressor and the person who is attacked equally. There is no sense in telling people who are being attacked to put down their weapons, when the aggressor force does not retreat to where it came from. Haftar responded to the call made by Mr. Salamé for a truce during the holy month of Ramadan by rejecting that call. He declared jihad and continued fighting. He reaffirmed that attitude during his meetings with a number of international mediators.

In conclusion, we have always called for peace and reconciliation, but have been obliged to wage war to defend our people, our capital and the hope of Libyans for a civil and democratic State. The aggression against Tripoli is nothing but a coup against legitimacy, which undermines the political process and aims to bring back a totalitarian regime and the rule of one individual.

We ask the Council to support the efforts of Special Representative Salamé to begin a political process that can be successful and take into account the new realities so that the United Nations Mission can find new mechanism to achieve dialogue with all Libyans without any exclusions and without associating that process with any particular person. The rules of negotiation have changed after such treason and aggression. Libya is greater than everybody.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.