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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321

Email: situationroom@africa-union.org

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1136TH MEETING

1 FEBRUARY 2023
ADDIS-ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1136 (2023)

COMMUNIQUE



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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1136th meeting held on 1st February 2023, on the Situation in Libya.

The Peace and Security Council,

Recalling all previous decisions and pronouncements of the AU on the situation in Libya, in particular, Decision [[Assembly/AU/Dec.819\(XXXV\)](#)] adopted by the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held from 5 to 6 February 2022, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and **also recalling** Communiqué [[PSC/PR/COMM.1091 \(2022\)](#)] adopted by Council at its 1091st meeting held on 29 June 2022;

Noting the opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Edward Xolisa Makaya, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the AU as Chairperson of the PSC for the month of February 2023, and the statement by the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, presented on his behalf by H.E. Ambassador Wahida Ayari, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission for Libya; **also noting** the statements by the representative of the State of Libya, by the representatives of the neighbouring countries of Libya and Members of the High Level Committee on Libya, namely: the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Republic of Chad, Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Tunisia, as well as the statements by the representatives of the North Africa Regional Capability (NARC), and by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), H.E. Abdoulaye Bathily;

Reaffirming its solidarity with the people of Libya in their quest for the restoration of peace, security and stability in their country; as well as AU support for the UN-facilitated Libyan-led and owned political process;

Reiterating the unwavering commitment of the AU to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, national unity, and independence of Libya; and

Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:

1. **Commends** the Libyan Authorities for the positive political developments being witnessed in the country, including the recent talks which took place in January 2023, in Cairo, aiming at reaching consensus on election law and on a roadmap towards the organization of presidential and parliamentary elections; and in this respect, **calls on** all Libyan political actors to commit to the dialogue and reach consensus on the finalization of all necessary constitutional and elections frameworks, in order to enable the National High Electoral Commission (HNEC) to effectively implement its mandate and grant registered voters the opportunity to freely exercise their constitutional right to vote;
2. **Welcomes** the appointment of Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Libya and Head of the UNSML; **looks forward** to working closely with the Special Representative in supporting the ongoing peace process and stabilization of the country and **calls on** all Libyan stakeholders to fully cooperate with the Special Representative; as well as for the rest of the international community to also support his efforts;
3. **Commends** the sustained efforts of the AU High-Level Committee for Libya led by H.E. President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo, in support of the Libyan peace process initiated by the Presidential Council towards holding the inter-Libyan Reconciliation Conference; and

in this regard, **pays tribute** to the extensive preparatory consultations undertaken by H.E Minister Jean-Claude Gakosso in various parts of Libya, aiming at mobilizing support for a peaceful political transition and national reconciliation in Libya;

4. **Expresses appreciation** to the neighbouring countries of Libya, the concerned Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) for supporting and facilitating the Libyan-owned political process, as well as stabilization, reconstruction and reconciliation efforts;

5. **Takes note** the progress made towards the revitalization of joint activities between the Libyan Joint Military Commission 5+5 (JMC) and the international ceasefire monitors, under the auspices of the UN, in Sirte, on 15 January 2023, to foster the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement and unification of the military and security institutions; and **encourages** the 5+5 JMC to fully implement the Ceasefire Agreement signed in 23 October, 2020, including the national “Action Plan for the withdrawal of mercenaries, foreign fighters and foreign forces from the Libyan territory”, in order to expedite viable solutions for the Security Track;

6. **Expresses deep concern** over the continued violations of the UN arms embargo and the delays in the withdrawal of foreign fighters, foreign forces, including mercenaries, that are threatening to reverse the gains achieved thus far in the country’s transition process; and **reiterates the call** for the international community to fully adhere with the Ceasefire Agreement;

7. **Also expresses concern** over the military tension in Libya and **calls on** all Libyan actors to refrain from any armed activities that could spark military confrontations and in this regard, **strongly condemns and rejects** the continuous external interferences in the domestic affairs of Libya, and **urges** all Libyan stakeholders and external parties to fully comply with and implement commitments as outlined in the Berlin Conference I and II, the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) and the Ceasefire Agreement;

8. **Underscores the critical need** for the continued role of the AU in the implementation of the National Reconciliation Strategic Vision as outlined by the Presidential Council; and **calls on** the Libyan stakeholders to adhere to the reconciliation process supported by the AU and the UN, under the umbrella of the Presidential Council to pave the way for the inclusive National Reconciliation Conference expected to take place on May 2023;

9. **Reiterates** that the Skhirat Agreement, signed on 17 December 2015, resulting from the process of reconciliation between the Libyan parties, under the auspices of the United Nations, remains one of the credible basis and framework for a lasting political solution for the Libyan crisis;

10. **Stresses the importance** of enhanced coordination and complementarity of efforts among the AU, the UN, the EU, the League of Arab States (LAS), as well as the rest of the international community and participants of the Berlin Process, in order to avoid duplication of efforts and competing tracks, in providing the necessary support to the Libyans;

11. **Reaffirms the need** for all external support to comply with the Libyans’ interests and respect the country’s sovereignty, as well as to complement AU-led efforts towards promoting national reconciliation and stabilization of the country;

12. **Reiterates the call** to the Libyan authorities, as well as the UN specialized agencies to take concrete measures towards protecting civilians in Libya, including internally displaced people, asylum seekers, migrants and refugees, in line with International Humanitarian Law and Human

Rights Law; and **appeals** to the international community to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to IDPs and refugees, as well as migrants and asylum seekers;

13. **Re-emphasizes the urgent need** for the AU Commission to ensure that, as soon as the required security conditions are fulfilled, the AU Mission in Libya is relocated to Tripoli and is sufficiently capacitated, in order to enable it to more effectively discharge its mandate, in line with Decision [[Assembly/AU/Dec.819\(XXXV\)](#)] adopted by the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held from 5-6 February 2022;

14. **Decides** to undertake a PSC field mission to Libya to express AU solidarity with the Libyan people and to engage all key stakeholders on the ground with a view to gathering first-hand information on the political process, as well as to dedicate a PSC meeting on Libya at the level of AU Heads of State and Government;

15. **Looks forward** to the outcome of the planned meeting of the High-Level Ad Hoc Committee for Libya scheduled to take place on the margins of the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in February 2023; and

16. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.