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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1150TH MEETING

18 APRIL 2023
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/MIN/COMM. 1150 (2023)

COMMUNIQUE

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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1150th meeting, held on 18 April 2023, Towards National Reconciliation in Libya.

The Peace and Security Council,

Noting the opening remarks by H.E. Nabil Ammar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia and Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) for the month of April 2023, delivered on his behalf by H.E. Mounir Ben Rejiba, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia, and the statement by the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, delivered on his behalf by the Director for Conflict Management Directorate, Dr. Alhaji Sarjoh Bah.

Also noting the statements of H.E Jean-Claude Gakosso, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Congo and the Chair of the AU High-Level Committee on Libya, and the statement by H.E. Dr Najla El Mangoush, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Libya, as well as the statements by H.E. Ambassador Wahida Ayari, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Libya, and H.E Abdoulaye Bathily, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Libya and Head of United Nations Support Mission to Libya (UNSMIL).

Recalling AU's previous decisions and pronouncements 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 5-6 February 2022, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and also recalling its previous decisions on the situation in Libya, in particular, Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM. 1091 (2022)] adopted at its 1091st meeting held on 29 June 2022 and Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM. 1036 (2023)] adopted at its 1036th meeting held on 1 February 2023.

Reaffirming its support to the Libyan-led political process towards elections and expressing the prominence of a multitrack National Reconciliation process approach whose core role is to foster confidence-building between different actors, trust, cohesion, peacebuilding, stability, democracy and sovereignty of Libya and its institutions; and

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

1. **Welcomes** the efforts undertaken by the Presidency Council towards accomplishing National Reconciliation through the adoption of a Strategic Vision Proposal on the matter and, in this respect, **reiterates its call** on all Libyan stakeholders, including civil society organizations, political actors, tribes, notables, municipalities, woman, youth, elders, religions and spiritual leaders, as well as the academia to adhere the reconciliation efforts in an inclusive and constructive manner;

2. **Also reiterates** AU's full and continuous support for the Permanent Ceasefire Agreement of 23 October 2020, and commends the Libyan stakeholders and the international concerned actors for respecting their commitments as outlined in the Berlin Conferences, and the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF);
3. **Welcomes** the continuous efforts of the Libyan Joint Military Commission "JMC 5+5" under the auspices of UNSMIL, to pave the way for the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement, in particular on the incremental and sequential withdrawal of Foreign Fighters, Foreign Forces and Mercenaries, as well as the unification of the military and security institutions, in order to expeditiously arrive at consensual sustainable solutions and to prevent any retrogressive tendencies;
4. **Also welcomes** the formation of the 6+6 Joint Committee composed of members of the House of Representatives and the High Council of State, in charge of preparing electoral laws towards holding general elections by 2023, and **encourages** all conflicting parties to overcome their divergences in the sole interest of Libya and the Libyan People; in the same vein, **calls on** all Libyan political stakeholders to relentlessly pursue efforts to overcome the current political stalemate for the sole interest of Libya's institutions' unification and independence, territorial integrity, freedom of its people and **encourages** the continuous endeavor of the Libyan stakeholders to reach consensus over the constitutional basis prior to general elections;
5. **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 UN, remains one of the credible basis and framework for a lasting political solution for the Libyan crisis;
6. **Underscores** its commitment to provide support to Libyan institutions, in particular, to the National High Electoral Commission (HNEC), in order to fulfil its mandate and permit registered voters to exercise their constitutional right towards a smooth political transition and respond to the democratic aspirations and rights of the Libyan people;
7. **Expresses** its full support to the efforts being undertaken by the AU High-Level Committee for Libya, chaired by H.E. President Denis Sassou N'Guesso of the Republic of Congo, to facilitate the reconciliation process in Libya, as well as the efforts initiated by the Presidential Council towards holding the inter-Libyan Reconciliation Conference; and in this regard, **welcomes** the holding of the National Reconciliation Preparatory Conference in January 2023, in Tripoli, as well as the consultations undertaken by H.E Minister Jean-Claude Gakosso to various parts of Libya, to facilitate a peaceful political transition and national reconciliation in Libya;
8. **Commends** the efforts being deployed by neighboring countries of Libya, the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) in supporting the Libyan-owned and led processes, including stabilization, peacebuilding, reconstruction and reconciliation processes; **Underscores** the importance of inclusivity and transitional justice in the national reconciliation process, including the use of domestic and traditional approaches;

9. ***Calls on*** all National Reconciliation actors, in particular, the thematic sub-committees put in place by the Presidency Council, to uphold the principles of comprehensiveness, sustainability, national identity, national security, civic education, tolerance, rule of law, equality, as prescribed by the Strategic Vision Proposal for National Reconciliation in Libya;
10. ***Underlines the need*** to expedite the implementation of Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) in line with the Ceasefire Agreement signed in 2020, in order to guarantee the respect of human rights, fundamental and constitutional rights of safety but also, security institutions reunification, with the support of key national stakeholders;
11. ***Highlights the need*** to ensure enhanced coordination, harmonization and complementarity of efforts among the AU, the UN, the EU, the League of Arab States (LAS), as well as the international community in order to avoid duplication of efforts and competing tracks, in providing support to the Libyans;
12. ***Reiterates*** its call for all external support to coordinate their efforts and strictly comply with the Libyans' interests, to further complement the Libyan-led, AU and UN-led efforts of state building and national reconciliation towards the stabilization and reconstruction of the country;
13. ***Recalls*** its decision to undertake a field mission to Libya to express AU solidarity with the Libyan people, as well as gather first-hand information on the situation on the ground with a view to adopt more informed decisions on the next steps in favor of Libya;
14. ***Underscore the importance*** of enhanced AU visibility on the ground and in this respect, ***reiterates*** the request for the AU Commission to expedite, the relocation of the AU Mission in Libya, to Tripoli and to mobilize the required resources to this end, in order to ensure that the office 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;
15. ***Decides*** to remain actively seized of the matter.