

KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Speech by

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Madam President,

I would like to thank Ms Stephanie Williams, acting Special Representative of the Secretary General, for her speech. Belgium greatly appreciates your determined action to find a political solution to the current conflict in Libya.

In recent weeks we have seen several positive developments under the aegis of the United Nations. These positive developments testify to the courage and determination of the Libyan people in the search for a unified, stable and safe Libya for all Libyan people.

Madam President,

I would like to quickly address three points:

- 1) Firstly, Belgium would like to congratulate the Libyan parties on **signing the ceasefire agreement** in Geneva on 23 October. It is now vital to implement the ceasefire agreement fully and immediately. We call on all the stakeholders, both inside and outside Libya, to play a constructive role in the return to security and stability. All mercenaries and foreign fighters must now leave Libya, as stated in the agreement. The arms embargo, which continues to be violated, must be respected in full in accordance with this Council's resolutions. In this context, Belgium welcomes the role of Operation IRINI. The international community is responsible for opposing any attempt to turn back the progress made, including by the use of sanctions.

The **recent talks of the Joint Military Committee** in Ghadamès and Syrte to make the ceasefire agreement operational, constitute positive progress. We encourage the participants to continue along this path and make progress in the different aspects, including disarmament and the demobilisation of the militia (DDR). The resumption of oil production is a positive development and should benefit all Libyans.

- 2) At the political level, Belgium welcomes the holding of the first round of the **Libyan Political Dialogue Forum** in Tunis, as recommended by the Berlin Conference and resolution 2510. We welcome the agreement obtained by the participants on a roadmap for credible, inclusive and democratic national elections, which are planned for 24 December 2021. We call for the continuation of these efforts so that a government of national unity can be formed promptly.

It is vital to take account of women and women's rights in the political processes in order to achieve a lasting and inclusive peace. In this context, we welcome the positive role played by the women who took part in the Forum.

- 3) There can be no democratic transition in Libya while the security and fundamental human rights of the population are not guaranteed. We strongly condemn **the assassination of the lawyer Hanan al-Barassi on 10 November**. This demonstrates that hostile forces continue to work against peace and stability in Libya. We now call for an independent, impartial and effective investigation to be carried out. The perpetrators must be held responsible.

The assassination of Ms al-Barassi is not an isolated case. It is a hateful example of the violence faced by female activists, like Salwa Bugaighis and Seham Sergiwa. This shows the extent to which we must do everything possible to ensure justice for the victims of these crimes (accountability). The International Criminal Court and the independent fact-finding mission responsible for investigating human rights violations in Libya will play an important role in the fight against impunity in Libya, which is the foundation of a national reconciliation process.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Belgium's full support for the UN's mediation efforts in Libya. I would also like to commend once again the courage and determination of all UNSMIL personnel and the entire country team. If we want to maintain the momentum and take advantage of the

recent positive developments, it is more necessary than ever **to urgently appoint a new special envoy and an UNSMIL coordinator.**

Thank you.