



Intervention of H.E. Mr Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

to the United Nations Security Council

UNSMIL briefing and consultations (Libya)

New York, 18 January 2019

Mr President,

Allow me to start by thanking the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ghassan Salamé, for his presentation.

I would like to commend your work, and that of the entire mission staff, who often operate in a particularly challenging environment.

I would also like to thank Ambassador Schulz for his speech as Chairman of the Sanctions Committee established by resolution 1970.

Mr President,

Belgium remains committed to the implementation of the amended United Nations Action Plan for Libya.

To break the status quo, progress is needed in the political, security and economic areas which are inseparable within an inclusive process led by the Libyans themselves.

We therefore support the work of the Special Representative in particular and UNSMIL in general in their ongoing efforts to convene the National Conference in the near future. Belgium calls on all Libyan stakeholders to cooperate constructively with UNSMIL for the organisation and the success

of the National Conference. This Conference should adopt all the principles and commitments necessary for parliamentary elections to be held.

Mr President,

There is no military solution to the conflict in Libya. Only a political solution can put an end to the violence and allow strong institutions to be rebuilt for the benefit of all Libyans; institutions such as unified, professional and civilian-controlled defence and security forces.

The security situation in Tripoli remains fragile, despite the ceasefire and security arrangements reached in September thanks to UNSMIL's efforts. We call for strict compliance with these agreements and for the parties concerned to implement their commitments. We condemn the recent fighting south of Tripoli.

The terrorist threat remains present in Libya. The absence of a political solution to the conflict can only favour the re-emergence of terrorism - and of ISIS in particular. I would like to draw the attention on the disproportionate suffering inflicted on children as a result of the armed conflict in Libya. Cases of armed groups using children in Libya continue to be reported. Children have been deprived of their freedom by the parties to the conflict and used in prisoner exchanges. The United Nations has documented incidents affecting displaced persons and migrants, including children, who have been deprived of their freedom, raped or subjected to prostitution or other forms of sexual violence. It is essential that we protect children today if we are to prevent new cycles of violence and conflict tomorrow.

Mr President,

The responsible and transparent management of the country's considerable revenues - whether from oil or taxation - for the benefit of all Libyans is of major interest.

Economic reforms, such as the elimination of fuel subsidies and devaluation, also deserve priority attention. We are encouraged by some of the economic reform measures taken recently and call on the appropriate bodies to continue along this path, particularly in their work to develop a unified and accountable budget for 2019.

In addition, Belgium supports UNSMIL in its work to coordinate the reunification efforts of organisations such as the Central Bank and the National Oil Corporation.

In conclusion, I express the wish that the integration of economic structures can pave the way for the reunification of political and security institutions.

Thank you.