



**PERMANENT MISSION OF
GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



UN Security Council | Briefing on The situation in Libya (24.6.25)

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Greece, Ambassador Evangelos Sekeris

Thank you, Madame President.

As we celebrate the International Day of Women in Diplomacy, I salute you, all other female colleagues around the table, sitting in this room and beyond, for their tireless effort, commitment, dedication and cooperation.

I would also like to particularly thank SRSG, Hanna Tetteh, for her detailed briefing and to excuse myself for not being able to be here at the beginning of the meeting to listen to her directly.

Madame President,

Since our last meeting, the situation in Libya has been marked by an escalation of violence in Tripoli, with reports of intense fighting with heavy weaponry in densely populated areas, as well as disturbing reports of civilian casualties and destruction, followed by massive public protests.

This Council expressed its deep concern over those violent incidents and called on all parties to protect civilians from violence and to hold those responsible accountable. The risk of new hostilities is non negligible, because the underlying drivers of conflict are not yet resolved.

Greece welcomes the critical and constructive involvement of UNSMIL and the SRSG in the de-escalation of tensions. We sincerely hope that the atmosphere of high tensions is diffused and that the situation of chaos, once an ominous possibility, will be averted.

We also welcome the recent decision by the President of the Presidential Council Mohamed Al-Menfi to establish a temporary Committee that will oversee security and military arrangements in Tripoli. We hope, as announced, that this decision will further consolidate security and stability in the capital of the country.

Amidst these tensions, the UNSMIL - facilitated deliberations by an advisory committee of Libyan experts and the dissemination of its report is a significant step towards reviving an inclusive political process leading the country to elections. Free and fair elections are key to a free and democratic Libya.

Madame President,

In this vein, we welcome the holding of the recent meeting of the International Follow-up Commission of the “Berlin process” in Berlin after more than four years. Gathering international support for UNSMIL’s efforts to facilitate the political process is crucial. Equally crucial is the expansion of the format of the meeting, without intentional exclusions, in order to include neighboring countries and interested parties that contribute positively to the political process in Libya.

All the more, since there are current efforts aiming at furthering Greece’s relations with Libya on all aspects of bilateral economic, energy and political cooperation. For our part, we are ready to engage in a fruitful dialogue to address all issues with our Libyan interlocutors and we count on their productive stance and their declared intention to also engage in dialogue on all issues of common interest, including maritime zones delimitation. Counterproductive statements or actions obviously move to the opposite direction. The last thing we need right now is another source of tension in our region in these turbulent times.

Madame President,

We urge UNSMIL to engage with relevant stakeholders on all critical challenges related to the political process, and we call on all parties to support fully UNSMIL's mediation and good offices efforts. We should collectively push all key Libyan players to engage with the United Nations in order to make progress on the political process.

After all, the Mission plays a key role in promoting peace and fostering an inclusive political process towards a better future for Libya.

In parallel, an agreement on a balanced and unified budget, with strong oversight mechanisms, remains equally important. Libya’s economic governance cannot be exercised effectively without the transparent and equitable use of resources for the benefit of the Libyan people.

As the security situation remains fragile, the need for the withdrawal of all foreign forces, regular and irregular, as well as mercenaries from the Libyan soil, becomes even more evident. Their presence is not conducive to stability and the advancement of the political process in Libya.

Furthermore, continued violations of international law, including human rights law, in combination with the persistent lack of accountability, cannot be overlooked.

A reformed criminal justice system, ensuring the rights of detainees and holding the perpetrators of violations accountable, is essential for Libya’s future.

Another recent decision by the President of the Presidential Council to establish a temporary Human Rights Committee, with the participation of UNSMIL, to monitor conditions in prisons and combat extrajudicial detentions and abuses is also a welcoming development.

Madame President,

Libya's stability is crucial for the control of migration flows, an issue that remains important for the EU and especially its members with maritime borders in the Mediterranean. In 2025 there has been a major increase in illegal flows from eastern Libya to Greece, mainly Tobruk towards Crete.

We remain concerned over the ongoing violence against migrants and refugees in Libya. Their dignity and rights must be guaranteed at all times and the trafficking networks must be dismantled.

Madame President,

The implementation of the Council's decisions on sanctions remains a challenge. Particularly, when it comes to the implementation of the UN arms embargo in Libya through the EU Operation "IRINI", we must acknowledge that the operation is striving to fulfil its mandate.

As reflected in the last UN Panel of Experts' Report, there have been incidents of repeated and persistent - even aggressive - refusals to allow for the inspection of ships suspected of violating the arms embargo.

Greece welcomes the renewal of Resolution 2292, as amended by Resolution 2733, albeit only for six months, as we support all actions conducive to strengthening the effectiveness of the arms embargo on Libya. The recent clashes in the capital are a testament to how elusive the implementation remains.

Madame President,

In closing, let me stress that Greece, as a neighbouring country, fully supports Libya's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. A strong and prosperous country, worthy of the proud Libyan people, where the rule of Law is respected. A unified country, free from any form of foreign interference and with respect for International Law, including the Law of the Sea. A stable country for the entire region.

We sincerely thank Ms. Tetteh and her team for their work since taking office, as well as all the staff of UNSMIL for their continued dedicated efforts towards peace and prosperity - a destination which can only be reached through dialogue.

I thank you.