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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1091ST MEETING
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
29 JUNE 2022

STATEMENT BY DR. ALHAJI SARJOH BAH,
DIRECTOR OF CONFLICT MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE, ON THE SITUATION IN LIBYA

Excellency Ambassador Daniel Owassa, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Congo and Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council for the month of June 2022;

Excellencies, Esteemed Members of the Council;

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Francophonie and Congolese with diaspora of the Republic of Congo

Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. On behalf of Ambassador Adeoye Bankole, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, I welcome this opportunity to brief Council on the situation in Libya and wish to thank you Mr. Chair for including this important item in the programme of work of the Council for the month of June 2022. Our meeting today is taking place at a critical moment for Libya and the Libyan people. The failure to hold national elections in December 2021 and expiration of the timeline for the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) roadmap, has left the country into political and security uncertainty.

2. The resulting political impasse has affected the security situation as manifested in the recent intermittent clashes in the country. The safety of civilians mainly in the capital Tripoli is under constant threat where security tensions between armed groups often leads to outbreaks of violence and skirmishes in densely populated areas. Local mediators should be commended for their tireless efforts to restore peace and security.

3. The House of Representatives started assuming its political leadership in the country by the end of December 2021 and adopted a new road-map focusing on the review and clarification of the constitutional basis for elections. Meanwhile, the House of Representatives has withdrawn its confidence in the Tripoli based Government of National Unity led by Prime Minister Dbeibeh and designated a new Government in the East led by Fathi Bashagha. The growing polarization between the parties needs to be addressed as a matter of high priority.

Excellencies, ladies and gentleman,

4. I wish to recall that African leaders have been seized of the situation with the situation in Libya. The AU high-level committee under the leadership of H.E. President Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo continues to spearhead AU initiatives for peace and stability in Libya. Last week, a high-level delegation led by H.E Minister Jean-Claude Gakosso visited Tripoli and Benghazi and met a wide range of key political and military Libyan actors.

5. Deliberations during his visit focused on the role of the African Union in supporting the inter-Libyan inclusive reconciliation process, as the Government of Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibeh has just finalized the national reconciliation strategy.

6. Based on the current state of play, Council may wish to call on all internal actors to preserve the peace and refrain from any proactive moves that could breach the ceasefire agreement thereby returning the country to military confrontations.

7. On the political track, Council may wish to underscore international efforts in supporting the representatives of both chambers (the House of Representatives and the High Council of State) to reach an agreement on the constitutional basis for the elections. The success of the constitutional track will allow Libyans to regain control of their institutional sovereignty and their national territorial integrity.

Excellencies,

8. The AU Commission continues to underscore the importance of the full implementation of the permanent ceasefire agreement of 23 October 2020 endorsed by the UN Security Council Resolutions 2570 and 2571 and the 2nd Berlin Conference on Libya.

9. The continued presence of foreign forces, foreign fighters and mercenaries in the country remains a major source of concern. The support of the international community and the participants in the Berlin Process is critical for the implementation of the Libyan plan for the withdrawal of these foreign armed factions and individuals.

10. The AU welcomes and supports the initiative of the Joint Military Commission (JMC) 5+5 to develop arrangements and a national action plan for the withdrawal of foreign armed groups, and has appointed a focal person to liaise with the 5+5 JMC.

11. The AU commends the resumption of the activities of the 5+5 JMC, welcomes the outcomes of their meetings in Toledo, Tunis and Cairo in May and June, respectively. The AU recognizes the important contribution that the JMC has made to Libya's stability and security since the October 2020 Ceasefire Agreement.

12. The work of the JMC and the Joint Constitutional Committee demonstrates that Libyans are eager to work together across political lines to lead the country towards peace and stability.

13. Council may wish to call on all actors to hear the voice of the Libyan people who are yearning for peace, security and stability under the leadership of a legitimately elected and unified Government. More than 2.8 million voters are registered and are impatiently waiting for the polls to choose their new unified and elected authorities through free, fair and transparent elections. The AU stands ready to support the long-awaited electoral process in the country.

14. To conclude, I wish to commend Council and the Chair of the High-Level Committee for their unwavering commitment.

15. Thank you for your kind attention.