

**Remarks of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General
and Head of UNSMIL, Hanna S. Tetteh, to the
African Union Peace and Security Council Virtual Meeting on Libya**
Thursday, 24 July 2025 at 12:00pm (Addis Ababa)

Mr. Chairperson,

Members of the Peace and Security Council,

Your Excellencies,

It is a great honour to speak before your distinguished Council on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, to discuss the situation in Libya and the ongoing efforts to restore peace and stability in the country.

We believe this meeting demonstrates a genuine unity of concern about the country's situation and our collective commitment to support and overcome its persistent challenges. Strenuous efforts are being made to maintain a relatively stable environment for the benefit of all Libyans and to create a conducive environment for the Libyan-led UN-facilitated political process in which we look forward to working closely with the African Union and other partners to move this forward, aiming to achieve the goal of a stable state and unified institutions through general elections.

Your excellency, Chairperson,

Distinguished Council Members, Excellencies,

The armed clashes that occurred on 12 and 13 May in Tripoli highlight the ongoing state of instability and fragility. The situation could worsen if political and security leaders fail to implement the necessary preventive measures to address the causes of conflicts, reduce tensions, and uphold the country's integrity and sovereignty. Your excellencies, we have worked closely with President Menfi and the Presidential Council, as well as key member states to de-escalate tensions in the capital and this led to the establishment of several temporary security bodies, including the Truce Committee on 18 May, and the Security Arrangements Committee on 4 June, tasked with implementing structural measures to sustain peace and reorganizing forces in the capital. But, the security situation remains fragile and the threat of potential

further clashes continues to exist. That is the reason why we very much appreciate the meeting of this council at this time and we look forward to you encouraging all parties to cease and desist from resolving any disputes form continuing conflicts.

You excellency, Chairperson,

Distinguished Council Members, Excellencies,

UNSMIL, with the support of the Federal Republic of Germany, reinvigorated the Berlin Process International Follow-up Committee on Libya by hosting a senior officials' meeting in Berlin on 20 June. We very much appreciate the participation of the African Union, together with other Berlin process members, including Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Spain, and used the forum to, amongst other things, to strengthen inclusive international coordination mechanisms to enable our collective support to advance the political process and critical economic, security and human rights reforms. To maintain this momentum, UNSMIL is currently preparing for a co-chairs retreat and looks forward to continued close cooperation with the African Union as a co-chair of the Security Working Group.

Mr. Chairperson,

Distinguished Council Members, Excellencies,

Currently, Libya is in the process of holding local elections which are crucial for building accountability between the citizens and the state. However, there are some obstacles to holding of local elections and I urge all actors to work to overcome them. The right of the people to elect their representatives is fundamental.

Building on these local elections, we hope to support Libya to advance holding its national elections. We believe that these are a key step to ending the protracted transitional phases and restoring peace, security, and stability in the country.

Your excellencies, UNSMIL facilitated the formation of an Advisory Committee comprising 20 Libyan legal and constitutional experts that was tasked with proposing options for addressing the contentious issues in the electoral framework, that prevented the holding of general elections. They also considered other issues relevant to establishing options for a political roadmap towards elections and unified institutions. We have consulted broadly among the Libyan public in order to have their opinions on these recommendations. Throughout the consultation process, participants have expressed a strong desire for national elections, they are also

express frustration with the continued political divisions, and for that reason express some lack of trust in their leadership to pull the country out of this crisis. But despite this all participants have held on to their hopes for a better future for their country.

Libyans have consistently expressed their concerns on the escalating threat to the country's stability and unity and they have also criticized the fragmented governance institutions. So based on all of these and the feedback that we've had, I intend to present a roadmap to the Security Council in August. Outlining pragmatic steps to achieve the goal expressed by His Excellency President Menfi of holding elections as soon as possible. However, the success of a Libyan-led, Libyan-owned roadmap facilitated by the UN also requires the support of the African Union, as well as the Security Council and others member states present in the International Follow Up Committee, which we normally refer to as the Berlin Process. We urge, and we would look forward to the support of the African Union in this Council to help support Libya in achieving this desired goal.

Your Excellency, I would like to recognize and appreciate the efforts undertaken thus far by the African Union to advance the national reconciliation file on Libya and the National Reconciliation Charter, led by His Excellency President Denis Sassou Nguesso and the High Level Committee on Libya. It is important that we all support the implementation of the process being Libyan-led and owned, with full ownership by Libyan institutions and Libyan communities.

UNSMIL stands ready to continue working with the African Union to identify entry points to overcome the challenges to this process and to advance the file, while continuing to advocate for a rights-based and victim-centred approach that is removed from the political dynamics currently holding the process hostage. It is clear that the reconciliation framework must not only be grounded in human rights, transitional justice and accountability, but also be inclusive of all Libyan constituencies, including civil society, women, youth, minorities, the victims and political actors from across the spectrum.

Your Excellency, Chairperson,

Distinguished Council Members, Excellencies,

I urge the African Union, especially this Council, to support Libyan people in realizing their political aspirations to end transitions and reach more permanent stability. The primary focus now is to concentrate all efforts to prevent conflict, move forward with the political process, ensure an effective process of reconciliation and transitional justice and bring an end to a period of prolonged transition. It will not be easy, but we reaffirm the United Nation's and particularly, UNSMIL's commitment to work with the African Union in support of national reconciliation, peace, and stability in Libya and the Libyan people.

Thank you