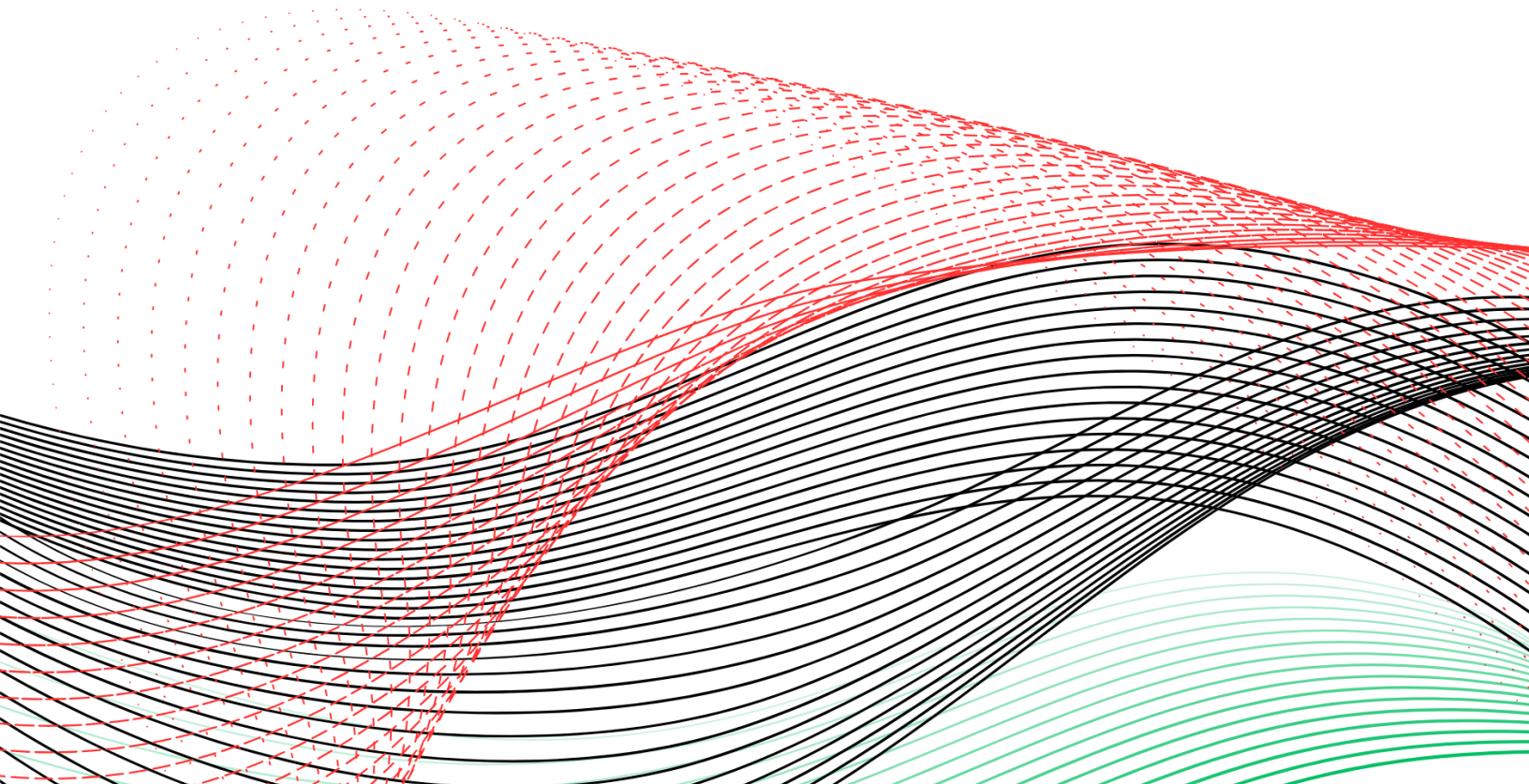


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Background Briefing:

*Structured Dialogue
Security Track*



The purpose of the Structured Dialogue is to develop a set of (1) concrete recommendations on immediate policy and governance issues to prepare a conducive environment for elections, and (2) policy and legislative proposals to address long-term conflict drivers with a view to formulating a unified national vision that will shape the path to sustained stability. The Security Track has agreed to tackle the following sets of issues:

People-Centered Security (cross-cutting topic)

A people-centered security approach places emphasis on protecting individuals rather than focusing solely on the state, prioritizing dignity, human rights, and collaboration between communities and security actors operating under civilian authority. This approach aims to strengthen trust between citizens and institutions, build resilience, and support proactive conflict prevention.

However, challenges remain, including outdated state-centric models, weak rule of law, and the continued presence of parallel armed formations that undermine civilian authority and one unified professional military and security entities.

Efforts to advance this approach have included initiatives to strengthen civil society engagement, promote inclusive participation of youth and women, support Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration programmes, and introduce professional standards such as a Code of Conduct.

Guiding questions:

- How can communities, including women, be empowered to play a meaningful role in security?
- How can collaboration between authorities and the population be strengthened in a conflict-sensitive manner, ensuring no harm to communities, so that the different security needs of women and men are effectively addressed and mutually beneficial outcomes are achieved?
- What approaches can support the orderly dismantlement of current local defense groups to stop their evolution into more structured militia actors and to support integration efforts in into the military and police?
- How can community-driven and locally owned initiatives in Libya—rooted in local legitimacy, social norms, and trusted community structures—effectively foster sustainable DDR, reduce violence, and strengthen social cohesion across divided communities?

Security Sector Governance

Security Sector Governance ensures that security institutions—such as the military, police, and intelligence services—are accountable, transparent, and operate under civilian oversight. Strengthening governance is essential to uphold the rule of law, protect human rights, and prevent fragmentation and politicization of security actors. It also supports professional institutions that reflect Libya’s diversity, including the participation of women.

In Libya, the complexity of political-military relationships, the emerging of distinct regional social contracts and the fragmentation of political and security institutions has made reform particularly challenging. Strengthening governance is therefore critical to restoring institutional coherence, reinforcing accountability, and advancing national unification.

Efforts to strengthen governance have focused on improving coordination, oversight, engagement with civil society, and the adoption of professional standards, alongside steps toward unifying security institutions.

Guiding questions:

- Are current laws adequate to support this approach?
- What governance structures are realistic and feasible in the Libyan context?
- How can oversight be ensured and the militarization of politics prevented?
- How can women’s participation be meaningfully increased?
- What are Libya’s core national and local interests that need to be protected?
- What are the main internal and external threats to Libya’s security?
- How do regional dynamics, including those in North Africa, the Sahel, and the Mediterranean, influence Libya’s security environment?

A Unified and Civilian-Led National Security Architecture

A unified national security architecture is essential for stability, legitimacy, and effective governance. Fragmentation—through duplicated command structures, overlapping mandates, outdated legislation, weak oversight, and regional disparities—undermines the effectiveness and responsiveness of the security sector. Establishing a unified, inclusive framework, including reflecting the needs and participation of women, requires clear legislation defining roles, responsibilities, and relationships between civilian and uniformed institutions, under civilian authority.

In Libya, these challenges have contributed to institutional fragmentation and weakened public trust. Developing a coherent, civilian-led architecture is therefore critical to strengthening state authority, improving service delivery, and advancing national unification.

Efforts to advance this objective have combined strategic planning, institutional reform, and confidence-building measures aimed at improving coordination, oversight, and integration of security actors.

Guiding questions

- What governance structures are realistic and feasible in the Libyan context?
- How can civilian control over the security sector be effectively institutionalized?
- How can security needs be balanced with the protection of civil rights?

Electoral Security

Free and inclusive elections are fundamental to democracy, legitimacy, and national reconciliation. Electoral security involves protecting voters, candidates, institutions, and infrastructure from intimidation and violence, while ensuring a safe environment for participation. Particular attention is required to address risks faced by women as candidates and voters, including smear campaigns, hate speech and physical violence.

Electoral security is a key test of institutional capacity and requires coordination between government, security actors, the High National Elections Commission (HNEC), and civil society.

Challenges include fragmented command structures, overlapping mandates, the absence of a unified electoral security plan, logistical constraints, limited training and representation, and gaps in legal frameworks—particularly regarding violence against women. Weak coordination between security actors and HNEC further undermines preparedness.

Efforts to strengthen electoral security have focused on improving planning, coordination, professional standards, and engagement with civil society, including women-led organizations, contributing to more accountable approaches.

Guiding questions

- How can electoral processes and candidates, particularly women, be effectively protected?

- How can freedom of expression during the electoral cycle be best regulated?
- How can electoral security frameworks be unified across Libya?
- How can hate speech and misinformation be effectively countered during the electoral process?

Sustaining the Ceasefire and Preventing Conflict

Conflict prevention is a core responsibility of state institutions operating under the rule of law, in partnership with communities. In Libya, the 2020 Ceasefire Agreement and the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) and the more recent Truce Committee in the western region were critical in reducing violence and enabling the political process. Security Council resolutions continue to call for full implementation of the Agreement, including the withdrawal of foreign forces and mercenaries. The Council has also consistently condemned any escalation that can harm the protection of civilians, and called for refraining from the use of force to resolve diverging interests.

While the ceasefire largely holds, sustaining it remains a challenge due to persistent mistrust, limited joint operations, and weak coordination. Strengthening confidence-building measures and increasing the involvement of community actors—including civil society and women-led organisations—are key to preventing renewed conflict.

Efforts since 2020 have focused on monitoring the ceasefire, strengthening coordination, supporting local de-escalation, and promoting community-based peacebuilding initiatives, alongside continued regional and international engagement.

Guiding questions

- How can conflict prevention be enhanced, and which areas should be prioritized in the pre-election phase?
- What measures can be taken to fully implement the Ceasefire Agreement and strengthen regional cooperation mechanisms for the withdrawal of foreign fighters and mercenaries?
- What conditions need to be in place to facilitate the withdrawal of foreign fighters and mercenaries from Libya?
- How can civil society organizations, including women’s groups, be more effectively involved in conflict prevention efforts?
- What long-term DDR (disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration) approaches are needed?