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Secretariat General
Secretariat of Arab
League Council Affairs

**Resolution 8523 adopted by
The Extraordinary Session of
the Council of the League of Arab States
at the Ministerial Level
(Video Conference)
on
Developments of the Situation in Libya**

Cairo

Tuesday, 23rd June 2020

Developments of the Situation in Libya

The Council of the League of Arab States convened an Extraordinary Session at the Ministerial Level via video conference on Tuesday 23 June 2020. It was chaired by H.E. Mr. Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdallah, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, with the participation of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Secretary General of the League of Arab States, and held upon the request of the Arab Republic of Egypt and with the support of the Member States,

- *Having reviewed,*

- The Note of the Secretariat General,
- Note no. 1640 submitted by the Arab Republic of Egypt on 21 June 2020,
- And pursuant to Resolution 753 adopted by the 30th Ordinary Session of the Arab League Council convened at Summit Level in Tunis, the Republic of Tunisia, in addition to the Arab League Resolutions no. 8471 of 4 March 2020, no. 8518 of 4 March 2020, and no. 8456 of 31 December 2019,

- 1- *Emphasizes* its adherence to all previous resolutions adopted by the Arab League Council, most recently Resolution 753 by the 30th Ordinary Session convened at the Summit Level in Tunis, the Republic of Tunisia on 31 March 2019; and Resolution 8471 by the 153rd Ordinary Session at the Ministerial Level on 4 March 2020;
- 2- *Reiterates* its commitment to the unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity, national cohesion and stability of Libya, and welfare of its people and their democratic future; *and emphasizes* the need to restore the role of the Libyan national state and its institutions in serving the Libyan people without any external interference;
- 3- *Emphasizes* the importance of an inclusive political solution for the crisis in Libya, and its support for the full implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement signed in Skhirat on 17 December 2015; *and stresses* the role of all legitimate institutions emanating from the Libyan Political Agreement, and the outcome of the various international and regional processes, most recently the Berlin Conference;
- 4- *Emphasizes* the pivotal and key role of the Libyan neighbouring countries and the importance of their coordination in efforts to end the Libyan crisis; *and welcomes* the Final Communiqué issued by the Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Neighbouring Countries of Libya, convened in Algeria under the generous auspices of the Algerian President H.E. Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune on 23 January 2020;
- 5- *Stresses* the rejection and need to prevent foreign interferences of any kind and of any origin that contribute to facilitating the movement of foreign extremist fighters to Libya, as well as violations of international resolutions pertaining to the embargo on the provision of arms that threaten the security of the Libyan neighbouring countries and the region;
- 6- *Emphasizes* that the political settlement among all Libyans with their various affiliations is the only solution for restoring security and stability and eradicating terrorism; *and expresses grave concern* that external military escalation exacerbates the crisis in Libya and threatens the security and stability of the region as a whole, including the Mediterranean; *and stresses* the need to cease the military conflict;
- 7- *Emphasizes* the rejection of all illegal foreign interferences that violate international laws, resolutions and norms, and contribute to the spread of terrorist armed militias that aim to spread extremist ideas and fuel violence and terrorism; *calls for* the

- withdrawal of all foreign forces that are on Libya's territory and in its territorial waters; *and warns of the danger of continuing military action with the aim of moving the existing lines where the parties are currently positioned so as to avoid expansion of the confrontation;*
- 8- *Welcomes* all international initiatives and efforts and efforts by the neighbouring countries aimed at halting military operations and resuming the political process in Libya under the auspices of the United Nations; *welcomes in this context* the Cairo Declaration on Libya issued on 6 June 2020 which is pivoted on the need for the solution in Libya to be based on the Libyan Political Agreement, relevant Security Council resolutions, the conclusions of the Berlin Conference, summits and previous UN international efforts that resulted in the elaboration of a comprehensive political solution containing clear operational steps in the political, security, and economic tracks, and respect for human rights and international humanitarian law; *and calls on* all Libyan and international parties to engage positively with these initiatives;
 - 9- *Expresses full support for* the efforts of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, aimed at reaching a settlement of the crisis through the three tracks in light of the conclusions of the Berlin Conference and Security Council Resolution 2510; *and urges* the United Nations Secretary-General to expedite the appointment of his special envoy, to avoid the drawbacks caused by the vacuum on achieving the desired progress on all tracks;
 - 10- *Emphasizes* the need to immediately reach a permanent ceasefire, and to agree on permanent and comprehensive arrangements for its implementation and verification of compliance with it, through completing the course of ongoing discussions within the framework of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations, the swift return to negotiations for a political solution, and continuing the implementation of the political and economic tracks of the Berlin Conference to achieve a comprehensive settlement to the crisis, in preparation for holding elections to allow the Libyan people to choose their representatives freely, and transitioning to building a democratic civilian state;
 - 11- *Emphasizes* the importance of the United Nations and international community compelling all external actors to remove mercenaries from all Libyan territories, to work towards the unification of military and security institutions in Libya within the framework of the political solution, and to dismantle the militias and hand over their weapons in accordance with the conclusions of the Berlin Conference;
 - 12- *Condemns* all violations of human rights, by whomever they are committed, in all Libyan territories; *and emphasizes* the importance of protecting all foreigners in Libya;
 - 13- *Emphasizes* the crucial role of the League of Arab States in enhancing consultation and coordination among the Member States, with a view to reaching a comprehensive political settlement for the Libyan crisis, and in pursuit of existing efforts within the Quartet and coordination with other partners concerned with the Libyan issue, in particular the African and European Unions;
 - 14- *Requests* the Secretary General to follow up on the implementation of this resolution and to report to the Council on this matter, and to also continue his contacts and consultations with the UN Secretary-General and different Libyan parties; *and emphasizes* the need to enhance the role of the League of Arab States to overcome the obstacles that still hinder the implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement.

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- **The Republic of Tunisia** registers its reservation on Paragraph (8) of the Resolution. Tunisia also registers its reservation on the last phrase of Paragraph (7) of the Resolution, which reads "warns of the danger of continuing military action with the aim of moving the existing lines where the parties are currently positioned so as to avoid expansion of the confrontation".
 - **The Federal Republic of Somalia** registers its reservation on Paragraphs 7, 8 and 11 of the draft Resolution prepared by the small drafting committee consisting of Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Libya.
 - **The State of Qatar** agrees with the Council Chair on the necessity of removing the two contested Paragraphs (8, 11) between Egypt and Libya from the draft Resolution and submitting them to the Secretary General for consideration, and in case of non-acceptance, the State of Qatar registers its reservation on Paragraphs (7, 8).
 - **The State of Libya** emphasizes the importance of distinguishing between forces present in Libya in a legitimate manner which were called upon through a declared and written agreement with the legitimate government and deposited with the United Nations, and other forces that involved themselves in the conflict in an illegal manner. The State of Libya is surprised by the double standards that the Arab League employed in dealing with the situation in Libya, when no resolution was adopted calling on the aggressor forces and their supporters, when the capital Tripoli was under aerial bombardment and artillery fire, to cease their aggression and military operations; and today and after the Libyan army and supportive forces of the legitimate government succeeded in reversing the aggression and began to regain control over the hijacked cities and assert state control over them, there are calls for drawing red lines over that. Accordingly, the State of Libya registers its reservation on Paragraph (7) beginning from "calls for the withdrawal of all foreign forces...." to the end of the Paragrph.
 - The State of Libya registers its reservation on Paragraph (8) of the Resolution. It stresses that whoever wants to play a mediation role must be equidistant from all parties, and should not align with one party against the other. And given that the legitimate Government of National Accord was not invited or consulted on this initiative, in addition that the initiative is not based on the terms of reference of the political settlement in Libya, whether the Libyan Political Agreement signed in Skhirat, or the Berlin initiative, or Security Council resolution 2510, hence the State of Libya registers its reservation on Paragraph (8).