



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



**UN Security Council Briefing on  
The situation in Libya  
19 February 2025**

Greece's statement delivered  
by H.E. Ambassador Evangelos Sekeris  
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

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Thank you Mr. President

I would like to thank also USG DiCarlo for her briefing. And I also welcome the participation of the Representative of Libya in this meeting.

Mr. President,

As this is the first time we are discussing the situation in Libya since the beginning of Greece's tenure as an elected member of this Council, we would like to stress a few key points.

First and foremost, as a neighbouring country, Greece supports a strong, stable and unified Libya, free from any form of foreign interference. A country worthy of the proud Libyan people.

We fully support Libya's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

At the same time, all its actions should be guided by adherence to the principles of the UN Charter and International Law, including the respect of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Stability in Libya remains key for the region, and even more so for immediate neighbours like Greece, impacted, among others, by a significant increase of irregular migration flows.

Mr. President,

Greece fully supports the United Nations Mission in Libya, a Peacekeeping Mission that has strived to play a constructive role in fostering an inclusive political process towards a better future for Libya.

We are thus very pleased to see its mandate renewed and, recently, automatically extended.

We would also like to welcome the appointment of Ms Hanna Tetteh as the new Special Representative of the Secretary General and the new head of the UN Mission in Libya.

Highly qualified and with an extensive set of undisputable credentials, we are confident that she will bring her vast experience and expertise into her new role.

We would be remiss if we did not mention the efforts of the Deputy Special Representative, Ms Stephanie Khoury, which have been notably impactful.

We commend her on her commitment and tireless efforts to tackle key problems in the Libyan file.

Achievements such as breaking the deadlock around the Central Bank of Libya have not gone unappreciated.

In addition, we welcome the announcement of the establishment and mandate of the Advisory Committee, as a significant step in the UN-facilitated Libya-led political process.

In this context, we commend UNSMIL and Ms. Khoury personally, for the initiative and the determination to ensure the balanced composition of the Committee's members. Our hope is that this will constitute an essential milestone along the path of national elections and ultimately, towards the country's stability and prosperity.

In this respect, the objectives and governing principles as set out in the LPDF Roadmap, are still relevant to the political process.

Overcoming the protracted political deadlock towards long-awaited national elections, in order to renew and re-establish the legitimacy of Libya's institutions, has been no easy task. Holding of elections should be a key priority for the International Community.

We welcome the holding of the first round of municipal elections in Libya.

However, it is difficult for any political process to flourish in an environment where the security situation remains fragile. We call on all stakeholders to engage in dialogue towards strengthening the institutions.

At the same time, we remain concerned over the prolonged presence of foreign military forces in Libya.

There needs to be a clear timeline for the withdrawal of all foreign forces, regular and irregular, as well as mercenaries from the Libyan soil, as their presence is not conducive to stability, the advancement of the political process in Libya and the holding of free, fair and democratic elections

Mr. President,

Greece welcomed the sanctions renewal last month, as the Resolution adoption managed to strike a fine balance between prolonging restrictions, on the one hand, and safeguarding the benefits of the Libyan people, on the other.

In this context, Greece underscored the addition of the designation criteria relating to the support of armed groups and criminal networks, as well as addressing the Libyan Investment Authority's concerns. We now reiterate our expectation that all parties, abstaining from abuses, which could negatively affect the peace process, implement the additional provisions in good faith.

However, 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.

Unfortunately, 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 will spare no effort to promote consensus and constructively contribute to the renewal of the Operation's crucial mandate, which expires in May.

Mr. President,

In closing, allow me to reiterate that Greece is committed to a strong, stable, prosperous and unified Libya.

A Libya where the rule of law is restored.

A Libya which will be a responsible stakeholder upholding international law.

A country where all its citizens can reap the benefits of electoral processes, free of foreign interference or attempts at destabilisation.

We sincerely wish Ms Tetteh and her team all the best in facilitating Libya's pathway towards peace and prosperity—a destination which can only be reached through dialogue.

I thank you