

Address of A/SRSG Stephanie Williams

First virtual meeting of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum–

26 October 2020

Good Morning

Assalam Alaykom

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum,

On behalf of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this virtual meeting through this electronic platform that brings us together after the Corona pandemic hindered direct communication, at least temporarily.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum,

Today, we are here to inaugurate the first session of the LPDF and initiate the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum, which we are convening based on the conclusions of the Berlin Conference endorsed by the UN Security Council in its Resolutions 2510 and 2542.

Although our meeting today is an essential milestone, but UNSMIL did not wait till this moment to reach out and listen to the Libyans; this is what we have done over the recent years, through the National Conference and many other tracks.

Today, we are trying with you at this essential milestone to rise to the level of historical responsibility and the level of what the Libyan people, your people, demand,

The Libyans want a decent life and a future for their children, your children

They want peace and security,

They want bread, electricity and reassurance,

They want respect, justice and appreciation,

Justice among individuals, regions, cities and components.

They want good governance that is unified and fair,

They want national unity, national sovereignty and a coherent social fabric,

Today, they want an effective, competent, impartial and inclusive executive authority, that consolidates national unity, commits to a clear program that takes the country out of the crisis and ends the successive

transitional periods, and restores ownership of decision-making to the Libyan people through credible and transparent elections.

The question for you and us is: how?

In this context, we have already held numerous meetings with women and youth groups and with mayors of municipalities and others. We have heard their legitimate and urgent demands, and also valuable proposals. You will hear directly the outcomes and conclusions of these discussions from the representatives of these groups.

We have made every effort to ensure that the participation in the Dialogue Forum is inclusive of all components of Libyan society. As you know, we cannot bring all the Libyan people together in one forum, as we received thousands of messages and requests from those who wish and want to participate in the Forum, especially in the direct meeting.

What matters to the Libyan people is "what?" – not "who?" I mean, what will result from the dialogue and not who will participate in it. This adds to your historical and national responsibility before your people and the international community. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to place the supreme national interest above all personal, partisan and regional

considerations. What brings you together is that you have one goal; to commit to patriotism, demonstrated by your undertaking to relinquish all executive positions in the next stage.

The aspirations and concerns of the Libyans will only be addressed through bridges of consensus within the LPDF. This is the only available basis on which the outcomes of your Forum will be based. I would like to recall here Article 34 of the conclusions of the Berlin Conference on Libya, according to which the Berlin parties commit themselves to accepting and supporting the results of the political process between Libyans. The international community will support you and support what you agree on.

The ultimate goal of this Forum remains to reach national elections, as the best way to restore the decision-making to the Libyan people, to the Libyan men and women, and establish a democratic stage in Libya that enables the Libyans to choose their true representatives, and yours, through democratic means and renew the legitimacy of the Libyan institutions. To this end, it is imperative to agree on the necessary arrangements that allow these elections to take place in the shortest possible time frame, including probably the creation of a unified executive authority that works to provide services to the Libyan people, and agree on a constitutional and legal basis to hold the elections in a legal formula appropriate to the stage.

The LPDF will not discuss or solve all the problems of Libya. The military and economic tracks as well as the track on international humanitarian law and human rights are still progressing, and we will update you on what has been recently accomplished. Although each track has its own avenues and methodology, yet, these tracks are complementary.

Conditions are now ripe and there is strong momentum that has been found following the progress made and the consensus views that resulted from the recent consultations between Libyans, inside and outside the country. Last week, UNSMIL mediated a nationwide ceasefire through the 5+5 JMC. This ceasefire agreement creates the necessary conditions that will be conducive for resumption of the political dialogue.

We are now facing a unique opportunity that must not be missed. Therefore, I call on all Libyans, especially those in a position of responsibility, to take advantage of this opportunity in order to fulfill the aspirations of the Libyan people to live in peace, security, prosperity and stability and to enjoy their bounties in a country that guarantees transparency and accountability and protects human rights. .

I wish you success in your deliberations