**Subject: EUNY 356 (2021) – UNGA76: High Level Meeting on the Libyan Peace Process, Co-Chaired by Germany, France, and Italy, 22 September 2021**

**Summary/assessment:**

**The meeting saw an overall consensus on the need to respect the commitments made in the ministerial Berlin conference and create the conditions for a sustainable return to stability.**

**EU MS co-chairs displayed a unified position stressing the imperative of staying focused on the objectives set out in the Roadmap and the Ceasefire agreement. The emphasis placed in the interventions by the Libyans on the reconciliation process and stability initiatives is a positive sign.**

**On the political track, all participants stressed the need to ensure that free and fair elections take place on time and that all parties accept their results, with Turkey highlighting that the modalities of the elections are as important as holding them in time. Most participants (with the exception of the EU, Niger, Turkey and Russia) refrained from referring to potential implications of the previous day motion of no-confidence introduced by the House of Representatives against the GNU, highlighting instead the pivotal nature of the situation and insisting on the collective responsibility of all Libyan actors and institutions to work together and find consensus to reach agreed objectives.**

**On the security track, most parties welcomed the progress made by the 5+5 JMC – including the reopening of the Coastal Road and the exchange of detainees – and all called for the withdrawal of all FF, with many stressing the need to ensure that the process does not impact on stability in the Sahel.**

**There was a strong participation of neighbouring countries, which took the floor and insisted on the importance of the regional dimension to Libyan dynamics.**

**HRVP Borrell expressed concern at the vote of non-confidence and urged all parties to work towards consensus, to ensure that the elections, and their results, are recognised by all.**

**Details:**

1. The meeting was convened by Germany, France and Italy, in the margins of UNGA, in the “Berlin 2 format”, with the addition of Libya’s neighbouring countries (Tunisia, Sudan, Niger and Chad), in line with the recent regional ministerial  conference hosted by Algeria.President Mnefi and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mangoush represented  the Libyan interim authorities.

2 **On the political track**, the **US and UK** reiterated their expectation to see preparations for holding simultaneous parliamentary and presidential elections on 24 December and recalled that the Government of National Unity has an interim function and is expected to act in accordance with the LPDF Roadmap. **Egypt** merely welcomed the adoption - by the Speaker of the House of Representatives - of legislation for the presidential elections. Whilst **Russia** expressed a cautiously balanced position welcoming efforts to date and looking forward to the requested legal basis for the parliamentary elections, **Turkey** highlighted that the modalities of the elections and the degree of consensus reached are as important as holding them in time.

3. **On the security track**, most participants commended the joint efforts, which had led to the reopening of the Coastal Road, and the positive work of the JMC 5+5. The stability initiative outlined by Minister Mangoush and the conference to be hosted in Tripoli on 21 October were hailed as positive signals of government ownership and as general positive developments. However, there was consensus that the lack of progress on the withdrawal of foreign presence remains a deeply worrying issue that is preventing the country from reuniting as it rightly deserves.  The importance of the issue was particularly highlighted by neighbouring countries which all stressed its destabilizing dimension for the region. All welcomed the recent efforts undertaken by Algeria and indicated their readiness to cooperate. The 2018 Quadripartite agreement between Libya and its southern neighbours (Chad, Niger and Sudan) was seen as a positive development. **Turkey** acknowledged that progress was needed but insisted that it could only be resolved in a gradual, phased and segmented manner reflecting the balance on the ground.

4 **HRVP Borrell** recalled with concern the recent vote of non-confidence by the HoR and urged all parties to refrain from actions that undermine consensus. In this regard, he reiterated the importance of holding elections on time and stressed that all parties must accept their results. He further emphasized the need to respect Libyan full sovereignty and territorial integrity, including the full withdrawal of foreign forces. HRVP recalled EU’s support to Libya’ security through (i) training and equipping efforts to the Joint Police Force after the reopening of the Coastal Road (ii) Border management through EUBAM mission (iii) Operation IRINI. Lastly, he welcomed the participation of neighbouring countries, reiterating his commitment to adopt a regional approach to these challenges.

5. **Germany, France, and Italy (Co-Chairs)** were united in welcoming recent progress made by the 5+5 JMC and in reiterating the need to advance the political process through the holding of free and fair elections as scheduled. They further expressed support for the renewal of UNSMIL and agreed on the need for the full implementation of the ceasefire, including the departure of all FF - with **France** highlighting that this should be reciprocal, incremental, and monitored.

6. **Libya’s President** **Mohamed al-Menfi** recalled the GNU’s efforts in three areas: **national reconciliation**, recalling that the release of detainees is a positive step; the **reunification of institutions**, including the Central Bank and other civil and military institution with the support of the UN; **and the implementation of the ceasefire**, recalling the reopening of the Coastal Road and emphasizing the need to build local and international consensus and to involve regional countries to ensure the departure of foreign fighters without impacting on regional stability. Lastly, he reiterated the GNU’s commitment to the holding of elections, urging all parties to accept the results, and stated that presidential and parliamentary elections should take place on the same day.

7. Other Countries reiterated the importance of holding elections as scheduled and ensuring the departure of all foreign fighters (FF). **Tunisia, Algeria, and Egypt** reaffirmed their support to Libya. **China** called for a humanitarian exemption to frozen assets to ensure development assistance. **Russia and Turkey** stressed the withdrawal of FF should be done in a gradual, synchronized, and parallel way. **Niger, Chad, and Sudan** called for an orderly DDR process that does not impact on security and stability in the region.

**Sign-off:** Ambassador Silvio Gonzato, for the Head of Delegation