**Flash – Ministerial Conference on Libya Stability – Tripoli, 21/10/21 – Standard report follows**

**Most relevant elements:**

* **Important international Conference for the Libyan authorities - the first of this kind in the last 10 turbulent years.** A significant effort has been made by the authorities to prepare the capital city, Tripoli, to welcome participants. The gathering was well organised and responded to Libyan expectations, with significant attendance at Ministerial level. The meeting agenda is attached.
* **Even if initially formal conclusions were planned, divergences on the draft(s) prompted the Libyan authorities to abandon the idea.** This decision brought some benefits at the level of attendance, and FMs of key countries such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia decided to participate in person.
* **The Conference can be considered a success and a positive step.** No particular progress or major statement was made as regards the significant challenges that Libya is facing, notably as regards the upcoming elections, the withdrawal of mercenaries and foreign troops or the reconciliation/reunification elements. However, there was no move backwards and the positions of participants (including the Libyan authorities themselves) remained moderate, in line with expectations and overall in conformity with international commitments.
* **In their opening remarks, PM Dbeibah and FM Mangoush referred to elections is general terms, without much precision** - although the PM indicated nonetheless that “elections will be held on time, responding to the international community” and the press statement issued by the FM (enclosed) includes an explicit reference to 24/12 national elections. **Little specific reference to the withdrawal of mercenaries and foreign troops was made by PM/FM**, even though the agreement reached by the 5+5 Joint Military Committee (JMC) and its Action Plan were welcomed.
* **Statements by Kuwait** (FM Sheikh Al Sabah, co-chairing the event as Presidency of the Arab League) **and the UN** (Under-Secretary-General Rosemary Di Carlo) **were much more specific regarding elections** - Di Carlo referring explicitly to simultaneous Presidential and Parliamentary on 24/12 - and on the importance of a gradual and balanced withdrawal of mercenaries and foreign troops. The first UN ceasefire observes have arrived today.
* **The presentations by Libyan authorities regarding (internal) security issues** stressed the importance of adequate strategic planning (an issue that is apparently being resolved under the GNU but which has delayed initiatives in the past). The South of the country is considered key in this context; it deserves more attention. In his intervention, the State Minister for Government Affairs in relation to the democratic future of Libya referred to HNEC efforts/preparations and openly referred to the 24/12 elections, indicating that “all Libyans are waiting for them”.
* **In their interventions, participating delegations** welcomed the Conference and the achievements made by Libya since the ceasefire of 23/10/20 (peace, GNU establishment, stability, progressive “normality” allowing the organisation of this Ministerial Conference, etc.). Most of the participants stressed the importance of having elections on 24/12 (in line with the Roadmap) and of implementing a gradual withdrawal of foreign fighters (although some regional neighbours (notably Chad, for internally security reasons) and Turkey (for other reasons), stressed the importance of a very progressive, well-thought and controlled withdrawal). EU delegations (DE, FR, IT)  insisted also on the importance of respecting HR, including (in particular) in the migration context. The US made clear that the elections should be not be subject to the implementation of the withdrawal of mercenaries/foreign troops (hinting that loose security-related reasons should not be an excuse to delay elections).
* **The Chair did not summarise the interventions (even if planned in the agenda), but the FM issued the attached press statement** which encompasses much of the positions and exchanges, and that confirms what was indicated at the beginning:  a constructive Conference, with high level participation, but not conclusive as regards the main challenges Libya will face in the short term, notably elections.

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