**Summary:**

***On 19 April, the UNSC held closed consultations on the situation in Libya/UNSMIL. During the closed consultations, USG DiCarlo recalled that the priority was to find a pathway to the organization of elections. She mentioned that the security situation was “relatively stable” and that the ceasefire was holding, while expressing concerns over the current political stalemate, including regarding the use of public funds. On the human rights situation, she underscored that the UNSMIL continued to observe severe violations related notably in relation to human trafficking and the detention of migrants and refugees by non-state actors. On the nomination of a new Special Envoy, she stressed that while the search for adequate candidates was still ongoing, the person would have to be based in Tripoli.***

***Council members spoke along well-established lines and most of them expressed their support to the renewal of UNSMIL’s mandate and for the UK’s zero-draft negotiated on the afternoon of 19 April (UK’s proposal is for a one-year renewal). Russia criticized the draft and China mentioned the importance of agreeing on a short renewal instead of a long one, considering the developments on the ground.***

**Assessment:**

UNSMIL’s mandate is due to be renewed by the Council next week. The UK penholder has proposed a substantive renewal for one year. The mood on the renewal is not particularly positive, with Russia (RF) expressing dissatisfaction with the text, pointing to the failure of the UN Secretariat to appoint an SRSG and calling for a short renewal (three months once again). China also seems to prefer a shorter renewal but is more positive in tone than Russia. As with all files currently before the Council, a confrontational approach from Russia is to be expected in light of tensions around the conflict in Ukraine.

**Detail:**

1. On 19 April, the UNSC held closed consultations on the situation in Libya. The briefing was part of the UK presidency PoW but has been encouraged by RF.
2. During the closed consultations, **USG DiCarlo** recalled that the priority was to find a pathway to the organization of elections in Libya and that UN efforts, which remained guided by the LPDF, were also focused on facilitating dialogue between the GNU (PM Dbeiba) and the GNW (PM Bashaga). She expressed her concern over the current political stalemate, including regarding the use of public funds (the HSC is continuing to rely on special funds as the HoR did not approve the budget for 2021), and the risk of increasing instability and violence as the LPDF deadline (plan to hold legislative elections in June) is approaching.

She reflected on the Cairo discussions under the auspices of the UN aimed at settling outstanding issues between the HoR and the HSC, stating that an arrangement had been found on the nomination of a Chair from the HoR and a rapporteur from the HSC, while noting that no substantive agreement had been reached and that a new meeting should be held in Cairo mid-May. USG DiCarlo mentioned that the security situation was “relatively stable” and that the ceasefire was holding, but expressed her deep concern over the announcement of eastern members of the 5+5 joint military committee to suspend their participation in the working of the committee and NOC’s recent decision to suspend its production and export of oil.

On the human rights situation, she underscored that the UNSMIL continued to observe severe violations, related notably to human trafficking, sexual violence and the detention of refugees and migrants by non-state groups in detention centers not accessible to UN workers. She further stressed that Libya was not a safe port for disembarkation.

On UNSMIL, USG DiCarlo regretted the division of Council members and the lack of funding, adding that the mission barely had enough people on the ground to monitor the ceasefire.

On the nomination of a SRSG, USG DiCarlo stressed that while the search for adequate candidates was still ongoing, the person appointed would have to be based in Tripoli, and she called on Council members to continue to support the work of Special Advisor Williams. Responding to Council members on the viability of the consultations in Cairo, USG DiCarlo stated that if no results emerged, one option would be to revive the Berlin process, also as a sign of support from the international community to the need to hold elections.

1. **Council members** spoke along well-established lines and most of them expressed their support to the renewal of UNSMIL’s mandate and UK’s work on a zero-draft negotiated on the afternoon of 19 April (UK’s proposal is for a one-year renewal). Most Council members renewed their hopes to see a SRSG nominated, with some of them calling for the appointment of an African representative (**A3**). **Russia** reiterated that its concerns over the UNSMIL’s mandate had not been met by the draft. **China** gave the impression of aligning itself with RF by mentioning the importance of having a short renewal instead of a long one, because of the developments on the ground. Neither operation IRINI nor the situation in UA were mentioned by the Council members.

**Sign off**: Ambassador Silvio Gonzato, on behalf of the Head of Delegation