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REPORT
OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR DENIS SASSOU N'GUESSO, PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, CHAIR
OF THE AFRICAN UNION HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE
ON LIBYA

I- INTRODUCTION

1. This Report is submitted pursuant to Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.9 (XXXII) adopted on 11 February 2019 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union. It provides an update on the activities of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya since the submission of my last Report on 10 February 2019.

II- ACTIVITIES OF THE AFRICAN UNION HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON LIBYA

2. Since the last Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the Chair of the Committee has continued his contacts with the Libyan parties and other partners in order to seek political means of restoring peace in Libya.

3. On 23 April 2019, in Cairo, Egypt, the Chair of the High-Level Committee took part in the meeting between the Troika (current, outgoing and incoming Chairs) and the African Union on the situation in Libya.

4. The meeting, convened on the proposal of the Chair of the High-Level Committee on Libya, was held on 4 April 2019 in Brazzaville. It was attended by the following:

- His Excellency Mr **Hamdi Sanad Loza**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Representative of the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt;
- His Excellency Mr **Olivier Jean Nduhugirehe**, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Representative of the President of the Republic of Rwanda;
- Her Excellency Ms **Naledi Pandor**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Representative of the President of the Republic of South Africa;
- Mr. **Moussa Faki Mahamat**, Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

5. On that occasion, the Chair of the High-Level Committee proposed the immediate halt to fighting and the organization of a meeting between Mr **Al-Sarraj** and Marshal **Haftar**, with a view to restoring dialogue and definitively abandoning the use of weapons.

6. The meeting also, inter alia, reaffirmed the key role of the African Union and its Member States in the resolution of the crisis in Libya.

7. The Chair of the High-Level Committee issued a communiqué following the entry of Marshal **Haftar's** troops into Tripoli.

8. Following these new developments, the Chair of the High-Level Committee held a wide-ranging exchange of views with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

9. In a communiqué issued on this subject, the Chair of the High-Level Committee urged the belligerents to show restraint and to give priority to dialogue in order to resolve the crisis.

10. On 14 June 2019, the Chair of the High-Level Committee was represented by His Excellency Mr **Jean-Claude Gakosso**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Congolese Abroad, at the meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, whose agenda included the situation in Libya.

11. In the message delivered on that occasion, the Chair of the High-Level Committee deplored the persistence and aggravation of the Libyan conflict, external interference and the lack of effective collaboration between the African Union and the United Nations.

12. He reaffirmed his commitment and readiness to pursue his mission with a view to finding a political solution to the conflict in Libya.

13. On 26 and 27 June 2019, in Brazzaville, the Chair of the High-Level Committee met with Mr. **Al Sarraj**, Chairman of the Presidential Council of the Libyan Government of National Accord.

14. On this occasion, the two Heads of State expressed their grave concern at the deterioration of the situation in Libya, particularly since 4 April 2019.

15. They reaffirmed the need to hold an inclusive inter-Libyan national reconciliation forum, prior to the organization of free and peaceful elections.

16. The two Heads of State undertook to work with all international partners to find a negotiated solution to end the crisis in Libya.

17. On his part, His Excellency Mr **Denis Sassou N'guesso**, Chair of the High-Level Committee, reaffirmed his determination to work towards the implementation of the Road Map adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in February 2019, in consultation with all Libyan parties and all international partners concerned by the crisis in Libya.

18. On 17 July 2019, in Niamey, Niger, the High-Level Committee held a meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government, on the sidelines of the First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the AU and RECs.

19. On that occasion, the Committee urged the Libyan parties to place the national interest of their country above all other interests.

20. The Committee proposed the appointment of a joint African Union-United Nations special envoy, in order to strengthen the coordination of the efforts by the two organizations based on a single road map to be drawn up by this joint special envoy.

21. The Committee invited the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to work together with the Secretary General of the United Nations to this end.

22. The Chair of the High-Level Committee participated in the International Conference on Libya, which held on 19 January 2020, in Berlin, Germany, under the auspices of the United Nations.

23. In this context, the Chair of the High-Level Committee on Libya expressed his positive appreciation for the measures contained in the Berlin Declaration.

24. In this respect, he welcomed the consideration of the key ideas contained in the Road Map of the High-Level Committee, in particular:

- holding a truly inclusive inter-Libyan national reconciliation dialogue, prior to the organization of peaceful elections;
- respect for the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya;
- the end of external interference in the internal affairs of Libya.

25. In addition, the Chair of the Committee welcomed the other measures set out in the Declaration, mainly:

- signing a ceasefire agreement, which all should respect or face sanctions by the Security Council;
- full compliance with the arms embargo imposed by the Security Council, under penalty of sanctions against actors who are caught in violation thereof.

26. Also, the Chair of the Committee welcomed the Berlin Declaration's support for an inclusive political process led and owned by Libyans themselves and the measures advocated therein, with a view to bringing this process to a successful conclusion.

27. In this connection, the Chair of the High-Level Committee particularly endorsed the request to all international organizations involved in Libya, including the United Nations, whose central role is recognized, to work closely together to facilitate an inclusive inter-Libyan political and reconciliation process.

28. In this context, the Chair of the Committee expressed satisfaction with the Berlin Declaration which supports the organization, by the African Union, of the Reconciliation Forum in the spring of 2020.

29. To this end, the Chair of the Committee welcomed the establishment of an International Follow-up Committee comprising all the countries and international organizations which participated in the Berlin Conference on Libya, and which Committee is placed under the aegis of the United Nations.

30. In this context, the Chair of the Committee supported the emphasis placed on following up the conclusions of the Berlin Conference, and the mechanisms relating thereto.

III- OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

31. Since 4 April 2019, the security and humanitarian situation has seriously deteriorated in the country, mainly due to the hostilities around Tripoli.

32. The common African Position, as reflected in successive Decisions of Heads of State and Government, would benefit from greater effectiveness through the commitment of all, and in particular of the Libyans themselves.

33. The Berlin Conference opened new prospects in this regard, by reaffirming the role of the African Union in the organization of the Inter-Libyan Reconciliation Forum.

34. The Brazzaville meeting should make it possible to adopt a new road map for this purpose, and to decide on the establishment of a Preparatory Committee and a Facilitation Committee for the Forum.

35. It is therefore recommended that the High-Level Committee pursue its mandate in the service of Africa within this new framework, and thus contribute, with the other members of the International Follow-up Committee, to the establishment and consolidation of peace and stability in Libya.

36. In this regard, it is also recommended that the Committee should work to implement its revised Road Map.

DRAFT DECISION ON THE AU HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON LIBYA
Doc. Assembly/AU/27(XXXIII)

The Assembly,

Expressing its grave concern over the deteriorating security, humanitarian and economic situation in Libya, making the living conditions of the populations increasingly difficult;

Expressing also deep concern at the unprecedented level of the flow of sophisticated weapons in Libya, which is aggravating the conflict and threatening the peace and security of the country, neighbouring States and the Sahel;

Condemning the terrorist activities, the use of foreign combatants and the use of mercenaries, as well as any facilitation of transit, transport or recruitment contributing to the activities of mercenaries which constitute a criminal act in accordance with the OAU Convention of July 3rd, 1977 on elimination of mercenary in Africa;

1. **RENEWS** its appeal to all external actors to immediately cease all interferences in the internal affairs of Libya, particularly the delivery of weapons and the recruitment of mercenaries, which exacerbate the crisis with consequences for the life of property and people which threaten the fundamental interests of the Libyan people and their legitimate aspirations for freedom, peace, democracy and development;
2. **REITERATES** the urgency of a full and effective ceasefire accompanied by a monitoring mechanism in which the African Union will be associated.
3. **URGES** the Member States of the African Union to deploy military observers, once the conditions are met, to participate in the ceasefire monitoring mechanism and to be in touch with the Libyan parties.
4. **DECIDES** to:
 - (i) The convening of the inter-Libyan reconciliation conference;
 - (ii) The establishment of the preparatory commission and the facilitation committee in charge of organizing the inclusive Inter-Libyan conference on national reconciliation and implementing its decisions ;
 - (iii) The adoption of the African Union Road Map for Libya.

2020-02-10

Report of HIS Excellency Mr Denis Sassou N'guessou, President of the Republic of the Congo, Chair of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya

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