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

**REPORT OF H.E. MR DENIS SASSOU NGUESSO, PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO, LEADER OF THE AFRICAN
UNION HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON LIBYA**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This Report is submitted pursuant to Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.646 (XXIX) adopted on 4 July 2017 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union. It reviews the activities carried out by the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya since the presentation of my last report on 4 July 2017 (Assembly/AU/7(XXIX)).

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 Leader of the Committee continued to collaborate with the Libyan stakeholders in order to find ways of re-launching the political process.

3. On 9 September 2017 the Committee held its 4th Meeting in Brazzaville, Congo. The Meeting was attended by:

- **H.E. Mr. Jacob Zuma**, President of the Republic of South Africa;
- **H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou**, President of the Republic of Niger;
- **H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat**, President of the African Union Commission;
- **Mr. Ghassan Salame**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Libya;
- Representatives of Head of State of Member States of the Committee;
- Representatives of the League of Arab States and the European Union.

4. Also in attendance, were the following Libyan political leaders:

- **Mr. Fayez Mustafa Al-Sarraj**, President of the Presidential Council;
- **Mr. Aguila Saleh**, President of the House of Representatives;
- **Mr. Abderrahmane Swehli**, Chairman of the High Council of States;
- Members of the Dialogue Committees of the House of Representatives and the High Council of State.

5. **Field Marshal Haftar**, who sent a representative to the Meeting, visited Brazzaville two days after the Meeting ended. At the meeting, a roadmap focusing on the continuation of the Inclusive Inter-Libyan Dialogue, the establishment of the transitional institution, and the launching of the electoral process, was adopted.

6. The deliberations were also marked by the launching of the Inter-Libyan Dialogue through the two Dialogue Committees. It was the first dialogue of that nature, bringing together the different parties to the Libyan crisis. It was a powerful

image to see personalities, who had previously refused to meet and speak to each other, together.

7. On 20 September 2017, in New York, the Leader of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya took part, alongside **Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat**, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, in the High-Level Meeting on Libya, organised by **Mr. Antonio Guterres**, United Nations Secretary General, on the sidelines of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly.

8. The High-Level Meeting validated the United Nations Plan of Action for a Political Solution to the Crisis in Libya, presented by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Libya, **Mr. Ghassam Salame**.

9. The Plan gave sole responsibility for leading the process to resolve the crisis in Libya to the United Nations Organisation, through the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Libya.

10. On 26 November 2017 in Brazzaville, the Leader of the High-Level Committee on Libya received the Supreme Council of Libyan Tribes and Cities. The meeting took place after those of the Dialogue Committees held on 6 and 15 October 2017, at the initiative of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General.

11. On that occasion, members of the Supreme Council expressed their concerns over the lack of any real progress at the end of the talks in Tunis.

12. The Leader of the delegation of the Supreme Council, **Mr Ladjili Brini**, reiterated the hope that the Libyan people had in the African Union, its High-Level Committee and the United Nations, in resolving the crisis in his country.

13. For his part, the Leader of the High-Level Committee urged members of the Supreme Council to support the initiatives taken by the United Nations with a view to ensuring their success.

14. On 29 November 2017 in Abidjan, in the margins of the 5th African Union-European Union Summit, held in Côte d'Ivoire, the Leader of the Committee participated in the meeting on Libya focusing on the situation of migrants. Measures were adopted at that meeting aimed at putting an end to the tragedy of migrants in Libya.

III. OBSERVATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD

15. More than one year after the signing of the Political Agreement and following months of political deadlock, continued efforts have been made to move the political process forward.

16. During the period under review, despite some difficulties, there have been relatively positive developments in the process to restore peace in Libya. Indeed, the High National Electoral Commission launched the campaign for voters' registration in preparation for the elections scheduled this year. Furthermore, the Skhirat

Agreement, which ended on 17 December 2017, was enforced by the United Nations Security Council.

17. However, there are still many challenges to be addressed, namely:

- persistent divisions within the political class;
- difficulties in reaching a consensus on the amendments to be made to some articles of the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA), particularly the article on the command of the Army;
- elaboration of a legislative framework accepted by all parties;
- adoption of the electoral law;
- security in the country, to ensure the smooth conduct of the electoral process.

18. Considering the precariousness of the situation, the African Union Peace and Security Council had, in its communiqué of 8 December 2017, strongly condemned the persistent divisions between Libyans, which prevent the country from having a unified architecture that functions properly.

19. Furthermore, while welcoming efforts made by the United Nations and the countries neighbouring Libya, the Council reaffirmed the central role which the African Union should play in the search for a lasting solution to the Libyan crisis, through the High-Level Committee and the High Representative for Libya.

20. The Committee remained deeply concerned by the exclusive approach adopted by the United Nations at the High-Level Meeting of 20 September 2017, and the possible marginalization of Africa in the management of the Libyan conflict, although it is Africa that suffers the consequences.

21. The Committee stressed the need for greater collaboration with the United Nations, which has the main responsibility in the area of international peace-keeping and security.

22. In the name of regional unity, it encourages all efforts that could ensure greater coordination and a better harmonization of the initiatives of various African actors involved in the search for a solution to the Libyan crisis.

23. The heartfelt cry of the Libyan actors must be heard by the African Union. We welcome their commitment to peace and national reconciliation, repeatedly renewed at our different meetings, as well as the tireless efforts made by the neighbouring countries to speed up the political process.

24. The Committee expresses its gratitude to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for the unwavering support which he continues to give to the Committee.

25. The Committee intends to pursue its mandate in the service of Africa in order to contribute, with the other partners, to the establishment and consolidation of peace and stability in Libya.

DRAFT
DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE AFRICAN
UNION HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON LIBYA
Doc. Assembly/AU/7(XXX)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya;
2. **EXPRESSES** once again its deep concern over the persistent political impasse and the security situation in Libya, which perpetuates the suffering of the Libyan people, undermines the legal institutions of the country and poses a challenge to security and stability in neighbouring countries and in the entire region ;
3. **REAFFIRMS** the urgent need to engage Libyans in an inclusive national reconciliation process in order to establish the requisite conditions for Libyans to determine the future of their country;
4. **UNDERScores** the need for Africa to preserve African unity and solidarity as well as regional understanding in the search for a lasting solution to the Libyan crisis;
5. **NOTES** with appreciation the efforts made by the United Nations Special Representative to Libya, Mr Ghassan Salame, in the implementation of the objectives defined in the United Nations Action Plan and expresses satisfaction over his commitment, during his visit to Addis Ababa, on 15 January 2018, to strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union for the restoration of peace and stability in Libya;
6. **STRESSES** in this regard, the importance of renewing and strengthening collaboration between the African Union, neighbouring countries and the United Nations in resolving the Libyan crisis, in order to reach a broad consensus on the objectives to be achieved and the initiatives to be carried out;
7. **REQUESTS** the African Union Commission to re-launch the efforts of the Contact Group on Libya, in close cooperation with the United Nations, in order to pool the efforts of the international community on the issue and support the efforts of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya;
8. **REQUESTS** the High Level Committee to pursue its contacts with all relevant stakeholders in order to achieve tangible progress;
9. **INVITES** to this end, the African Union Commission to provide the necessary resources for the accomplishment of the mandate of the High-Level Committee;

10. **EXPRESSES**, once again, its appreciation to H.E. Mr Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo, Leader of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya, to the African Union Special Representative, H.E. Mr Jakaya Kikwete, as well as to neighbouring countries, for the efforts made towards achieving lasting peace in Libya.

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