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

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. This Report is submitted pursuant to Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.695 (XXXI) of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, from 1 to 2 July 2018.
2. The Report covers the period from 1 September 2018 to 8 February 2019, and is based on the 3rd Report on the Activities of the AU High-Level Committee on Libya submitted to the Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 28 and 29 January 2018.
3. This Report includes an update on initiatives towards resolving the crisis, as well as the status of implementation of the Assembly Decision since the submission of the last Report.

**II. UPDATE ON INITIATIVES WITH A VIEW TO RESOLVING THE LIBYAN CRISIS**

**II.1. Background**

4. The situation in Libya continues to be a source of great concern to the international community in general, and the African Union in particular.
5. Since the establishment of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya, the African Union has been working consistently towards the organization of an inclusive Forum for dialogue and national reconciliation, prior to the holding of general elections, within the context of a final and lasting solution to the Libyan crisis.
6. In January 2018, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in Addis Ababa, adopted Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.670(XXX), whereby it stressed, among other things, the importance of renewing and strengthening collaboration between the African Union, neighbouring countries and the United Nations, in order to reach a broad consensus on the objectives to be achieved and the initiatives to be carried out.
7. In July 2018, in Nouakchott, Mauritania, the Assembly called for the organization of an Inclusive Inter-Libyan National Reconciliation Forum, in August 2018, under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union, with a view to establishing conducive conditions to the consensual organization of credible and peaceful elections.
8. Senior Officials of the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations held their Third Trilateral Meeting in September 2018, in New York, during which they agreed to work in close collaboration with the Libyan stakeholders on the principle of convening a National Peace and Reconciliation Conference, before the holding of transparent and peaceful legislative and presidential elections.

9. In October 2018, under the Congolese Chairmanship of the African Union Peace and Security Council, a meeting was held on the situation in Libya, with the participation of neighbouring countries and members of the Committee.

10. On that occasion, the Council essentially urged all stakeholders, particularly the United Nations, to give priority to the establishment of conducive political and security conditions, including the promotion of national reconciliation and dialogue, in order to ensure the smooth organization and conduct of credible elections, in keeping with the spirit of the Libyan Peace Agreement signed in December 2015, in Skhirat, Morocco.

## **II.2. Recent Developments in the Situation in Libya**

11. Since the presentation of the last Report, there have been several major developments, namely:

- the organization of an International Conference on Libya by the Italian Government, in Palermo, Italy, from 12 to 13 November 2018;
- the Meeting of Libya's Neighbouring Countries, in Khartoum, Sudan on 29 November 2018;
- the resurgence of acts of violence in Tripoli.

12. The Palermo Conference, which was attended by Representatives of the Chair of the AU High-Level Committee on Libya, was held in pursuit of unity within the international community in its support to the stabilization process in Libya. It provided an opportunity to reaffirm the need to find a political solution to the crisis, and establish a national reconciliation process involving all Libyans.

13. The Meeting of Libya's Neighbouring Countries led mainly to the establishment of military patrols at the borders between the Sudan, Niger, Chad and Libya, as well as agreements on the right of hot pursuit between the countries.

14. The current situation remains marked by a resurgence of acts of violence, particularly in the Tripoli region, after several months of relative calm. The deterioration of the security situation, attributed to uncontrolled militia, could jeopardize all the efforts made so far towards stabilizing the country.

## **III. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS**

15. Many difficulties have been encountered in implementing the Decision of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government on the organization of a National Reconciliation Forum. They are mainly, the following:

- Lack of coherence between the United Nations strategy and the African Position, which, above all, supports the idea of a National Reconciliation Forum prior to the general elections;

- Lack of regular consultations between the two Organizations on the way forward on this issue;
- Failure to fulfil commitments made during meetings between the High-Level Committee and the UN;
- Lack of consistency within the High-Level Committee, some of whose members adopt positions that reflect the difficulties Africa has in speaking with one voice on the Libyan issue, despite the momentum instilled by the Chair of the Committee;
- The existence of deep divergences between the Libyans themselves, and the interference of sub-regional powers.

**16.** In the light of the rather discouraging observations, the question of the role of the African Union in the management of the Libyan crisis should be addressed once again.

#### **IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**17.** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.670(XXX) of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union provides the ideal framework for seeking a lasting solution to the crisis in Libya. It is therefore imperative that the Committee remain united and consistent in order to provide further support and reach a consensus on the African approach.

**18.** The African position on the Libyan issue, as reflected in successive Decisions of Heads of State and Government, would benefit from eliciting further support through the constructive engagement of Libyans themselves, primarily, as well as members of the Committee, in order to take advantage of existing points of consensus and find a means of reducing divergences

**19.** The Committee should remain consistent in the search for an African solution to the Libyan conflict, and speak with one voice.

**20.** Africa should advocate for improved collaboration with the United Nations in resolving the Libyan crisis.

**21.** The Committee should pursue its contacts with the Libyan parties, in collaboration with the United Nations.

**22.** The Committee should ensure liaison with the United Nations, through joint meetings for the coordination of initiatives towards a final and lasting solution to the Libyan crisis.

**DRAFT AFRICAN UNION ROADMAP FOR LIBYA**

N°	Activities	Date and Venue	Objectives	Participants	Observations
1	Meeting of the AU High-Level Committee on Libya (HLC)	5-6 April 2019 in Brazzaville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Harmonisation of views on the Libyan issue;</li> <li>- Establishment of a Preparatory Committee (inter-Libyan) for the Forum;</li> <li>- Establishment of a Facilitation Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Representatives of all Member States of the Committee;</li> <li>- Political actors and the Libyan Civil Society;</li> <li>- Representatives of tribes</li> </ul>	The United Nations and members of the Quartet could participate in this meeting.
2	UN-AU Consultation Meeting	20 April 2019 in Addis Ababa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Definition of the terms of reference, date and method of financing the Forum,</li> <li>- Installation of the Preparatory Committee and the Facilitation Committee</li> </ul>	Representatives of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The UN;</li> <li>- The AU;</li> <li>- the Preparatory Committee (inter-Libyan);</li> <li>- the Facilitation Committee</li> </ul>	Under the auspices of the UN and the AU, with support from partners.
3	Session of the Preparatory Committee	1-20 May 2019 in Addis Ababa	Preparation of conditions for holding the Forum, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Definition of the capacity and number of participants;</li> <li>- Preparation of budget;</li> <li>- Elaboration of the Draft Rules of Procedure;</li> <li>- Elaboration of the Draft Code of Conduct during the electoral period;</li> <li>- Preparation of the draft texts for the electoral process, including the electoral calendar.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparatory Committee;</li> <li>- Facilitation Committee</li> </ul>	Under the auspices of the UN and the AU, with support from partners.
4	Inter-Libyan Inclusive National Reconciliation Forum, under the auspices of the UN and the AU	1-10 July 2019 in Addis Ababa	Consideration and adoption of the documents of the Preparatory Committee	Representatives of the UN, the AU, the High-Level Committee, the Libyan civil society invited by the Preparatory Committee.	Under the auspices of the UN and the AU, with support from partners.
5	General Elections	20 October 2019	Holding of presidential and legislative elections		In conformity with the conclusions of the Forum.

**DRAFT**  
**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON LIBYA**  
**Doc. Assembly/AU/9(XXXII)**

**The Assembly,**

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya, meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 10 February 2019;
2. **EXPRESSES**, once again, its concern over the gravity of the situation in Libya;
3. **REITERATES** the need for Africa to speak with one voice on the Libyan issue and to improve synergy of action and joint efforts between the African Union and the United Nations on the initiatives to be taken to reach a final settlement;
4. **STRESSES** the key role of the Libyans themselves in the search for a lasting solution to the situation and the need for them to take ownership of the process to end the crisis;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take the necessary measures, jointly with the United Nations, with a view to organizing during the first half of July 2019, the Inclusive Libyan National Peace and Reconciliation Forum;
6. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to take, jointly with the United Nations and the Libyan Government, all the necessary measures for the organization of presidential and legislative elections in October 2019;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to initiate the necessary contacts with the United Nations, with a view to establishing a framework for ongoing, regular consultations between the United Nations and the African Union;
8. **INVITES**, the High-Level Committee to pursue its contacts with all the Libyan stakeholders, in order to reach a broad consensus on the modalities for the organization of the National Reconciliation Forum;
9. **URGENTLY CALLS FOR** the cessation of all external interference in Libya;
10. **COMMENDS** the efforts made by **H.E. Mr Denis Sassou Nguesso**, President of the Republic of Congo, Chair of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya, as well as the neighbouring countries, towards finding a lasting solution to the crisis in Libya.

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