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I apologize in advance if my statement is a little long today but I think the situation in my country deserves an in-depth explanation. Allow me to begin by honoring the memory of all those who have fallen, whose blood has been shed over the nine years of crisis, those who have fallen in the name of God, those who have fallen as martyrs. I am speaking on behalf of Libyan people and the people of the region who are currently in a state of anger and lack of trust and confidence in the international community and that holds true for decades now. In response to their suffering, their problems, they found they've only been met with silence or with fine words, and that is supposed to make up for all that they've faced with death, destruction, and displacement of peoples. It seems that attempts have been made place the aggressor and the oppressed on the same footing in the actions of the international community at least in some instances.

The crisis in my country today did not come in a vacuum. It's a result of systematic actions and interventions for years now. In 2011 when Libyans took to the street to bring revolution to their country together with peoples in the region to demand their legitimate rights and freedoms this Council adopted a resolution under Chapter 7 calling for the protection of civilians as its principal priority. What has happened since, the 2011 resolution has been exploited by certain parties to destroy the country and to export crises elsewhere and is being used in order to settle scores and to enrich people and to line peoples' own pockets. This has created chaos and conflict, making it ever more difficult to get back to where we were before, particularly as a result of outside meddling.

The resilience of Tripoli is not just a symbol of the courage and determination of the Libyan people but also the people of the entire region and the determination to hold up their revolutionary fervor in the face of those who seek to stomp them down and not allow them to express their rights and freedoms through oppression. What has exacerbated our crisis today is the actions and meddling of countries who have a fear of the independence of our nation and our freedom to make our own national decisions. They know that Libya, because of its geographical location and its resources, can play a pivotal role in economic, political, and security terms. Libyans want prosperity in their own country. But those who are meddling want prosperity for their own countries and to get that prosperity are prepared to kill and main our children , our people in Libya because of their selfishness. A moral responsibility is born by the international community and the Security Council for what we have been experiencing for the past nine years now.

Many of the victims of this crisis have been women and children in all four corners of the country. We have been dealt with by six special envoys over the last nine years and the situation hasn't changed on iota since the beginning. The status quo remains deeply entrenched.

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For 10 months now the level of aggression has been stepped up and the Security Council seems unable to put an end to that aggression. 75 years after the creation of the United Nations its high time for genuine real reform to be carried out in the work of Security Council.

A report by the Secretary General was published a few days ago and made it clear the scale and magnitude of the violations and crimes that have been carried out by Haftar and the parties and bands that support him. This is an aggression in which he has called for jihad against Tripoli and he repeated that call during the visit of the Secretary-General. This is unprecedented as an action and as an aggression.

We are a few days away from the National Congress, a National Congress that was supported favorably by your Council. The current aggression has been in the wings for years now. A lot of equipment has been procured from foreign sources and many mercenaries from Chad, Sudan, and other countries have entered into the country and that's well-documented.

The report of the Secretary General in paragraph 22 makes it clear that Haftar and the forces affiliated with him have carried out more than 1000 air strikes including 60 precision air strikes by foreign fighter aircraft. On the 4th of December these aircraft bombed the military training institution in Tripoli killing 30 young cadets. That took place on the 4th of January this year, I beg your pardon. These are young military cadets who represented the whole people of Libya. How can then, this army, these armed forces of Haftar claim that it is the Libyan national army when they are prepared to kill the children of their fellow nationals, of their compatriots? The actions of the LNA have led to killing and the expulsion of tens of thousands of women and children, of old people, of the most vulnerable. Four children were killed yesterday in school. The bombings and the air strikes target hospitals as well as family homes, they lead to the death of doctors, of entire families. Civilian airports are also targeted as well as schools, and other civilian infrastructure. And the perpetrators are not named and shamed by members of the security council. The detention of immigrants in Tajoura has not been spared from the bomb strikes by foreign aircraft in July last year with 53 killed from amongst the immigrants detained there, the majority of them Africans. UNSMIL's report refers directly and specifically to that, as did the Human Rights council. These are but a few examples of a series of violations and crimes that have led to displacement and other suffering that is unprecedented in the history of Libya.

Heaped upon that is the closure of oil ports and the manipulation of the assets and heritage of the Libyan people. The report of the Secretary-General itself states that in the eastern half of the country, half a dozen militias have been responsible for a series of murders and assassinations amongst the people of the country and that sometimes is flagrantly but other times in secret circumstances. They are also responsible for abductions and for torture, including the parliamentarian Seham Sergiwa who has been missing for six months now. Vashir's just one of many. And faced with all of that, we are supposed to treat the aggressor and the people being aggressed on the same footing, as if they have the same right to be heard, the same voice. These are violations and crimes. We have evidence of these violations and crimes.

The report of the panel of experts also made it clear the involvement of the United Arab Emirates in what's going on. Eleven times mention has been made of the fact that the UAE has provided armed vehicles, drones, aerial support systems to a party at war. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sudan the day before yesterday also stated that several Emirati companies are recruiting young Sudanese later to deploy them to Libya. They're not aware of where they are being deployed to as they're recruited. Report 812 contained information on the provision by the Egyptian authorities of equipment and their involvement in airstrikes in the West and East of Libya. And so we are forced to ask that question: why this interference, why this meddling? The UAE is thousands of kilometers, thousands of miles away from us. So are they not supporting a coup d'état? And if so, why? Why are they undermining our national security? We also don't understand how the big brother of the Arab community can step forward to support those who are killing their co-Arab citizens in Libya. Those who are involved in sewing chaos and disaster in the country, in the region. This is unprecedented between our two neighboring countries; I am speaking of course of Egypt, who we see as our big sister, our big brother in the Arab world. It is important that those who are currently supporting the LNA and sewing crisis instead back peace and security in the region.

Rockets have been found and it is claimed that these rockets were sent over, dispatched to support French special forces. That claim has been made. Was the commission of the Security Council sought and accorded for the involvement of the French special forces and their rockets? People do not seem to be alive to what's going on. Rather than supporting war and conflict, you should be supporting peace. Otherwise the Libyans will not forgive you for the fact that you have failed to prevent and have indeed engaged in the spilling of their blood in some instances. We cannot accept a peace that is partial in nature, that exposes an ongoing basis to risk, to threat.

Our armed forces are the heroes of the operation; they have proven their resilience and determination, their willingness to sacrifice themselves to put an end to the aggression by the aggressors, to push them back from the doors of Tripoli. We are exercising our legitimate right to defend our people, our infrastructure, and our city. We do nonetheless support all efforts by the international community to keep an eye on these violations and to follow up on them. But we do ask ourselves what is their pragmatic tangible use if its just words.

Several countries have a stake in what's happening in Libya. They have a role to play here. Either accusations that we are putting forward are erroneous and should be proven or they should accept that they have been found out involved in these nefarious actions and they should stop doing what they're doing. We are sick and tired of being the proxy battleground of the world. We welcome any initiative to restore peace; in that framework we wish to underscore the critical work being played by the African Union, which some are seeking to marginalize and to push out into the cold. We thank the African group for their work in the Security Council in particular. And we thank in particular the President of the Congo, who hosted the African Union committee on Libya which met this morning in Brazzaville. Haftar did not wish to participate, thumbing his nose at African concerns. We support this African solidarity in our drive toward reconciliation. And we hope it will dovetail with the efforts of the special envoy in the UN plan. We welcome Russia and Turkey's initiative to implement a ceasefire despite the fact that our counterpart Haftar refused to sign onto that agreement in Moscow. We hope that the Russian federation will continue its efforts in order to insure that this initiative can go somewhere. We would

also like to thank Germany and in particular Chancellor Angela Merkel for having hosted the Berlin conference despite all the difficulties and the challenges in the run up there to.

I would like to clarify the following point: the ongoing violations by the aggressor that have taken place after the Berlin conference: his refusal to sign up to the ceasefire agreement, his refusal to participate in the JMC 5 Plus 5 committee thus far which was suppose to meet for the first time in Geneva the day before yesterday confirms once again that the aggressor has no intention of pursuing peace. And this has been said openly by its own spokesperson last Sunday when he said we will go to the international conferences not to find solutions, we are firmly convinced that the solution lies in rockets, grenades, ammunition and weapons, end of quote. And If I may turn now to my second major theme: as we pursue truces and ceasefires, we need to consider how we can engage in a truce and a ceasefire if the aggressor is not to be taken seriously and refuses to return to their original lines and their bases. That needs to be sine qua non for any truthful ceasefire.

The Security Council has adopted a resolution and this is my third major theme. Or is intending to adopt one to support and embed the Berlin outcomes, the outcomes of the Berlin process which are a very serious and tangible set of outcomes which should hold accountable those responsible for persecuting the war. We will continue to work alongside all countries and international forces to ensure this takes place.

Any dialogue needs to be based on the Libyan political dialogue. Any move forward needs to be based on the constitutional process the will of the Libyan people. It needs to allow for presidential and parliamentary elections under the auspices and monitoring of the United Nations and the international community in order to ensure that Libyans themselves can freely choose at all levels of the society, irrespective of their political adherence to decide the future of their government, of their institutions and forge a democratic government.

Ladies and gentlemen there are three excuses or pretexts that are always trotted out to justify aggression: the fight against terrorism, the elimination of armed groups and the fair distribution of wealth. As far as the fight against terrorism is concerned we have always cooperated with various states first and foremost the United States of America to eliminate the scourge of terrorism irrespective of where it springs up. The liberation of Sirte from the hands of Daesh is an example of that. That liberation was guaranteed by the heroes of our country, heroes today and the leaders of whom are accused of terrorism bizarrely and paradoxically and who are killed in a violation of the truce. Ten alone were killed last Sunday in an attack on the Abu Grain region.

We cannot deny that all Libyans have made sacrifices. All Libyans have stood up and been countered against terrorism, whether that be in the East, the West, the North or the South of our country. But there are those who exploit the blood and sacrifice of the Libyan people and they do so in order to get their hands on power. As far as armed groups are concerned we have to admit the reality there are armed groups in all towns, in all regions of Libya of one stripe or another. There are tribal armed groups, there are armed groups based on ideology or political adherence, you can't put them all in the same basket. The ongoing chaos and the spread of weapons and ammunition in the country which has been a reality for several years now can explain this mushrooming of armed groups of different affiliations,

different beliefs and different aims. And they receive backing and financial support sometimes from outside. And despite the many security agreements that we have made together with UNSMIL and other partners we have been able to reduce the number and the ability of these armed groups to carry out their predatory activities. We have been able to eliminate several of these groups. The extent to which we've been able to bring about security by stamping out some of these armed groups is inherent in the fact that forty diplomatic missions are now opened in Tripoli, for example. Many young people join these armed groups and they do so for a lack of other alternatives. Many of them love their country, they are true patriots. This is a problem which will not be resolved through armed confrontation which is a message that we need to transmit it will not be resolved through the imposition of a military government but we will only be able to address their concerns, their needs and aspirations through the setting up of a legitimate government that can provide for economic growth and opportunities.

We must redistribute wealth more fairly. We must make sure that all of our revenues are available to the Libyan people first and foremost including our oil revenue and outside aid. The parallel national bank printed 11 billion dinar recently, which undermined our ability to boost revenue. We need a single central bank that is respected as being so. Libya needs radical reform and legislation. We need to make sure that we take steps against corruption. The distribution of wealth is guaranteed by the constitution of the state.

Through the Libyan investment authority we have rolled out a new strategy for good governance and transparency in our civil service

I repeat a point we have made in the past: we don't want to see the asset freeze lifted at this point of discord and division. Nonetheless we would call for an easing of the asset freeze to prevent the annual losses we see at the central government level. Assets have been frozen of companies that are affiliated the the Libyan investment authority and this is erroneous step because it can have an adverse effect.

We have always been at the forefront of actions to put an end to the bloodshed of the Libyan people. We were very close to reconciliation. We saw many displaced persons return home. Unfortunately, we have lost that ground. This is a war being carried out by a single individual in his thirst for power fueled by the blood of our citizens.

Everyone should be aware that the Libyans will reconcile. No one will sew permanent discord among us. We will pursue those responsible for sewing this discord. Libya will rise again. Thank you very much president.