

Committee: Disarmament Committee

Issue: The situation in Libya: ratification of unilateral intrastate memoranda.

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Position: President, Deputy President

Dear delegates,

We hope this study guide facilitates your preparation for the Disarmament Committee and gives you a good overview of the topic. For any questions regarding the study guide or the procedure as a whole, you are more than encouraged to send an email to one of your chairpersons.

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Sincerely,

The GA1 Student Officers.

INTRODUCTION

Libya is located in the north of Africa along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Since its independence from Italian colonial rule, Libya has faced a turbulent history plagued with power struggles, political disputes, civil wars, and humanitarian conflicts. The current Libyan civil war began in February of 2014, but fighting has been on and off since the Anti-Gaddafi uprising that occurred three years prior, in 2011. Gaddafi was killed in 2011, and this brought an abrupt end to his 40 year rule over Libya. Tribes and militias that had once united against Gaddafi now violently fought against each other in an attempt to fill the power vacuum created by his death. This power struggle is the main cause of the civil war today. While there may be many groups fighting for power, there are two main rival administrations. The first is the House of Representatives led by Khalifa Haftar and his forces in Tobruk. The second is the Government of National Accord, led by Prime Minister Fayeze al-Sarraj, which is the UN backed government based out of Tripoli. Recently, the capital of Libya, Tripoli, is being fought over. Haftar is trying to seize it from the GNA. Haftar's forces

have shelled Tripoli's airport and blockaded oil terminals. This caused the national output of oil to drop 75% and made the lives of Libyans more difficult. This has exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in Libya, displacing at least 217,000 people, and causing 823,000 people to be in need of humanitarian aid. According to the UN, there have also been around 2,000 casualties in the last year alone, including hundreds of civilian deaths. Children's safety, health, and access to education have all declined. The access and quality of health services and infrastructure have also faced rapid deterioration. Electricity cuts, worsening water and sanitation services, and increased flooding have also added to the intensified humanitarian crisis. Germany has gone as far to say that Libya could rapidly become a "second Syria". Many foreign powers are involved for a few main reasons. Firstly, Libya has Africa's largest proven oil reserves. Many countries want there to be a ceasefire in order to protect their oil companies in Libya or ensure their drilling rights for oil and gas in the Mediterranean. Secondly, Libya's ports are a launch point for many of the migrants who end up in Europe. Thirdly, some countries want to side with Haftar as he has shown he is capable of driving Islamic extremists out of Libya. Finally, some countries say they need to stabilize the country to restore peace. Regardless of their interests, many foreign governments are still providing financial and military support to different militaries and rival factions despite the presence of an international arms embargo since 2011. Overall, this topic will focus on how to stop the conflict in Libya, curb the humanitarian crisis, and address the foreign powers in Libya. When constructing resolutions on this topic, it is especially important to consider all political parties, the source of the conflict, and the conflict's impact on the civilian population.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Term 1_House of Representatives

The House of Representatives is one administration fighting for power in Libya. They are affiliated with Khalifa Haftar and his Libyan National Army (LNA). They are based in the east in the city of Tobruk. Khalifa Haftar was a friend of Gaddafi's and one of Libya's top military leaders before escaping to the US when one of his missions went wrong. He then returned during the Anti-Gaddafi uprising and began consolidating power to build the Libyan National Army. He is supported by many including Egypt, UAE, Saudi Arabia, France, and Russia. He has pitched himself as capable of driving Islamic extremists out of Libya and will fight until Libya is cleansed of extremism. Haftar and the LNA are rapidly gaining territory.

Term 2_Government of National Accord

The Government of National Accord is one administration fighting for power in Libya. They are led by Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj in Tripoli. While the GNA utilizes what is left of Libya's formal military and militia power, it struggles to assert control over the city of Tripoli. They are supported by the UN. The GNA has also been accused of having ties to Muslim extremist parties causing some countries to be weary of backing them. The GNA is backed by the UN, Italy, Qatar, Turkey, and formally the EU.

Term 3_National Oil Corporation

The National Oil Corporation is the only Libyan state oil company permitted to manage and sell the country's oil. It is based in Tripoli. There have been attempts by Haftar to break its monopoly. Many international companies work with the NOC. The largest foreign oil producer in Libya is Italy, but France is also expanding its operations there. Russia may also begin to work with NOC.

Term 4_Humanitarian Crisis

As defined by the Humanitarian Coalition, a humanitarian crisis is "an event or series of events that represents a critical threat to the health, safety, security or wellbeing of a community or other large group of people, usually over a wide area." These often occur due to human made disasters or natural disasters. In the case of Libya it is the man-made disaster of armed conflict. A humanitarian crisis often prevents people from gaining access to fundamental necessities, such as shelter, adequate drinking water, food, education, sanitation services, and more. A common response to a humanitarian crisis is an influx of crucial aid from UN member states, UN organizations and NGOs.

Term 5_Proxy War

Oxford defines a proxy war as "A war instigated by a major power which does not itself become involved." These major powers are often foreign countries and they support their own interests by supplying weapons, logistical and financial support, ect.

Term 6_Coup d'état

A coup d' état (also known as putsch or simply coup) is “the violent overthrow or alteration of an existing government by a small group”¹ . So, in other words, during a coup, a dictator, the military, or a political faction tries to gain the power of a country by non-democratic means.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A) History

a. Italian Colonial Rule (1912-1951)

In 1912 Italy seized Libya from Ottoman rule. Italy was one of the last European powers to engage in imperial expansion in Africa. Colonizing Libya was justified as a way for Italians to divert their attention from their own internal divides. They believed it would unify Italy and increase their pride. Many Italians also believed that Libya would be an ideal settlement for immigration. A variety of Libyan factions were growing uneasy with Italian rule after World War I. Italians had little power and attempted to peacefully consolidate its occupation of the country. However, once Italy became Fascist in 1922, Italian armed forces were sent on a violent reconquest of Libya. The Italian army had around 20,000 men and the Libyan army just 1,000. World War 2 allowed Libyan factions seeking independence a chance. They allied with the US and Britain and were able to drive the Italian armies out of Libya. On December 24 1951, Libya finally declared independence.

b. The Gaddafi Era (1969-2011)

Colonel Gaddafi deposed the Libyan king in 1969 during a military coup. This began his rule of Libya. In the 1970's Gaddafi led Libya through a “cultural revolution” and a “people's revolution” in attempts to improve Libya. Gaddafi developed and advanced education, medical care, irrigation, access to housing and food, and the exploitation of oil. However, for much of Gaddafi's rule, his strategy for governing Libya consisted of playing off different tribes and militias against each other. Freedom of speech and

other liberties were violently repressed. Gaddafi also brought a decade of isolation from the West after many disputes with the US and Britain. In 2011, Libyans rose up against 40 years of brutal ruling and eventually killed Gaddafi. The UN Security Council also alleged that Gaddafi had committed countless crimes against humanity

c. Civil War (2014-Present Day)

The current civil war in Libya erupted in 2014 when the General National Congress (GNC) refused to step down from power. The Libyan National Army that was created and is led by Khalifa Haftar began consolidating power and launching attacks in an effort to gain territory. Eventually, the GNC broke down and the UN sent a new UN-backed Government of National Accord. This caused two main administrations to begin fighting for power. The first being the House of Representatives which is affiliated with Haftar's Libyan National Army in the east, and the second being the UN-backed Government of National Accord in the west. Haftar's LNA made big advances by seizing key oil export terminals in the east and rapidly gaining key territory. Haftar's LNA was also busy fighting Islamic extremism and by 2018, Haftar claimed that he and the LNA had driven out the majority of Islamic extremists from Libya. Recently, the LNA attacked Tripoli, sparking new fights with the UN-backed GNA. The UN has attempted to implement many ceasefires and solutions to the brutal fighting. However the situation continues to deteriorate. Foreign intervention has also played a key role in the war so far, as many countries on both sides continue to violate an international arms embargo in an attempt to protect their own interests. The violent attacks have resulted in thousands of casualties and have led to a dire humanitarian crisis.

B) Main Issues

a. Foreign Involvement

Libya's civil war has undoubtedly been made worse by foreign involvement. Even before the war began, foreign powers were channeling weapons and training anti-Gaddafi groups. Through this meddling, proxy rivalries began and have now exploded into open warfare. This foreign aid to proxy groups

has only increased the violence throughout the war. The two main administrations fighting for power in Libya are each backed by various foreign powers. Egypt, UAE, Saudi Arabia, France, and Russia all support the House of Representatives which is affiliated with Haftar's Libyan National Army. The UN, Italy, Qatar, Turkey, and formally the EU all support the Government of National Accord. Many of the foreign powers involved have interests that differ greatly from those of ordinary Libyans. As mentioned earlier, this has become an internationalized war where foreign powers only provide weapons, money, and logistical support. This occurs even though there has been an international arms embargo since 2011. This is critical, as the fighting will never cease as long as both sides have a continuous flow of foreign support.

b. Failed Ceasefires

The UN has attempted to implement numerous ceasefires in Libya. However, each time, member states agree, and then it is violated days after it was enacted. Leaders of both sides of the war claim to attempt to enforce the ceasefire, but are being forced to retaliate against enemy attacks. Foreign shipments of weapons quickly resume, and the fighting on the front lines begins again. These constant failures have questioned what real power the UN has to solve this crisis. However, it is difficult to imagine a cease fire being successful when the member states being asked to stabilize Libya are the same member states encouraging the violence by supporting their proxy groups. The issue with many recent resolutions calling for a ceasefire is that they only emphasize respecting the arms embargo but lack a plan for punishing countries when they violate it.

c. Libya's Economy

Libya has the largest oil reserves in Africa, and oil is the backbone of the Libyan economy. Revenues from this oil, the country's greatest asset, have decreased by more than 90%. The two sides in the war have struggled and fought over control of the oil fields. This has caused production to be restricted at the state oil firm NOC due to security concerns. In the past, NOC has had to close Libya's largest oil field and urgently evacuate all fuel

tankers from ports after nearby militant activity was threatening destruction. This has caused production to plunge from 1.6 million barrels of oil per day to barely three hundred thousand. Since armed groups continue to fight over oil thereby decreasing production, concerns have risen about whether Libya will be able to support itself economically.

d. Migrant Crisis

Libya is a major departure point for migration from northern Africa and the Middle East to Europe. Many of these migrants are being smuggled through Libya and then placed on overcrowded and dangerous boats towards Europe, particularly Italy. This journey is incredibly dangerous and thousands have drowned trying to complete it. Since the war-torn country lacks a strong government, controlling migration is nearly impossible. For this reason, stabilizing Libya is important for the EU in order to control migration into Europe.

e. Humanitarian Crisis

1. Displaced People

As a result of the continued fighting in Libya, the UN Refugee Agency estimates the number of internally displaced people to be more than 217,000. These people have had to leave their homes unwillingly due to brutal violence and destruction and look for somewhere else to begin their lives again. Displaced people are commonly in need of basic necessities such as water, food, and shelter

2. Child Safety and Education

It is estimated that 500,000 children have been put at risk by this ongoing conflict. Violence against children has been increasing. The war-time violence has also caused children to suffer from psychosocial distress or trauma. This could lead to future deficits in their lives. Due to the conflict, the quality of education and access to education has declined. Children are unable to enrol in

school as many schools are now being used to house displaced persons.

3. Health Services

Health services such as medical care and access to hospitals are deteriorating in Libya. UNICEF reports that “In 2019, an estimated 17.5% of hospitals, 20% of primary health care facilities and 18% of specialized hospitals are partially damaged or completely destroyed throughout the country.”

4. Water, Sanitation, Electricity

The quality of water and sanitation services has decreased. Due to all the destruction and fighting sanitation services have stopped in some places and the availability of clean water has decreased. This could cause waterborne diseases to increase. Electricity cuts have also become frequent in Libya.

5. Flooding

Recently, Libya has faced flooding. This has caused around 4,250 people to be displaced from their homes and water treatment infrastructure to be damaged and contaminated.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

a) Egypt

Egypt has played an influential role in the war in Libya. They naturally allied with Haftar against a common enemy: political Islam, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood. The GNA has supported the Muslim Brotherhood in the past. Egypt believes that Haftar is the only Libyan leader that is willing to address and attack Islamic extremists. Egypt shares a border with Libya so it has easily provided weapons, logistical, and financial support to Haftar and the LNA throughout the war. Egypt has reportedly covertly bombed Haftar’s targets. Haftar’s rise to power is

similar to that of the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. Due to their similar political views and aspirations, Haftar and Sisi are seen as natural partners. Egypt also recognizes the immense opportunities that a stabilized Libya could provide Egyptian expat workers. For this reason, Egypt has encouraged diplomatic avenues for an end to the fighting.

b) United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates is frequently considered one of Haftar's main supporters. Haftar and the LNA rely heavily on the many advanced weapon systems and air support that the UAE supplies. This support is in violation of the arms embargo and has only escalated the conflict. Similarly to Egypt, the UAE allied with Haftar as they see him as a trusted partner capable of combating political Islam, specifically the Muslim Brotherhood. The UAE has frequently shared that it has no tolerance for political Islam.

c) Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia views political Islam and the Muslim Brotherhood as harshly as neighboring UAE and Egypt. Due to this, they have naturally allied with Haftar and the LNA. Recently, Saudi Arabia has been providing a lot of support to Haftar including tens of millions of dollars to help fund his Tripoli offensive.

d) France

While the EU formally supports the UN-backed GNA, France has been supporting Haftar. France has an aggressive stance against political Islam and extremists. They view Haftar as the best option to attack this extremism. France also has interests in Libya's oil. They have been expanding their operations with the NOC. They also have concerns about the numerous migrants using Libya to get to Europe. France would benefit greatly from a stabilized Libya. They have been thought to provide Haftar with military assistance and support, however, the government denies these allegations. In 2019, France blocked an EU statement which encouraged Haftar to stop his attack on Tripoli.

e) United States of America

The United States of America play a vital role on the topic. Firstly, the relations between the US and Libya were quite bad from the beginning, as Libya had allied with the USSR. USSR and the USA were the most powerful countries and extremely competitive with each other. Therefore, by aligning with Russia, Libya made the US an “enemy”. Their relations deteriorated after the civil war of 2011 and NATO’s intervention in 2012, with military forces. So, since then they are on bad terms and this was again showed, when in 2016, the US began bombing Libya with the permission on the GNA, as part of actions against the ISIS. Lastly, it is important to be mentioned that the US is still intervening in Libya.

f) Russia

Russia has gotten involved in the Libyan civil war by backing Haftar. Many believe Russia has only gotten involved for strategic reasons. Russia is attempting to gain power in this region by taking advantage of the absence of Western engagement and a shared Western objective or opinion. They want to become a new power broker in this region. Russia has also been exploiting the conflict by playing both sides in order to put pressure on the EU. They did this in an attempt to be able to negotiate the economic sanctions imposed on Russia by the EU. The Kremlin has sent around 1,400 mercenaries to support Haftar’s attack on Tripoli. Russia has also blocked a UN Security Council statement urging Haftar to stop his advances in Tripoli.

g) Turkey

Turkey is one of GNA’s main supporters. Turkey has recently increased its military support towards the GNA. They have even begun sending troops into Libya in response to Haftar’s offensive in Tripoli. Turkey said the troops’ goal was to support the legitimate and UN-backed government as well as avoid a humanitarian tragedy. The reason for Turkey’s involvement in Libya is that Turkey has a lot of active companies in Libya that they need to protect to prevent the loss of investment. In the past, Turkey has also supported groups close to the Muslim Brotherhood.

h) Qatar

Qatar supports the GNA as Qatar is more tolerant of political Islam. They have scaled back their military and financial support of the GNA, but still back them diplomatically.

i) Italy

Italy supports the UN-backed GNA. Italy is involved in Libya mainly due to historical ties and oil interests. They are the largest oil producer in Libya. A stabilized Libya would greatly benefit Italy. Italy is also invested as many irregular migrants have been able to travel through Libya to Italy.

j) United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)

According to the UN, UNSMIL is “an integrated special political mission established on 16 September 2011 by UN Security Council Resolution 2009 (2011) at the request of the Libyan authorities to support the country's new transitional authorities in their post-conflict efforts.” This mission has been adapted and extended numerous times in order to provide the utmost support. Its role in Libya is to support key Libyan institutions, provide humanitarian aid, monitor human rights, coordinate international assistance, provide support to the GNA, and more. A resolution passed allowing for this mission to continue until 15 September, 2020

k) The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Because of these wars, there has been an augmentation in the number of refugees coming from Libya. More specifically, a report of the UNHCR showed that it had registered over 45,600 refugees and asylum seekers during 2019. This indicates that the crisis is still severe. So, the UNHCR is concerned, among the countries that are receiving this number of refugees. These countries namely are Tunisia, Egypt, Chad and European countries across the Mediterranean.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
1 September 1969	Gadhafi's coup

11 June 1970	The last of the USA's forces leave Libya. This date is celebrated as a national holiday in Libya
21 July 1977	March on Cairo
15 February 2011	Fethi Tarbel's demonstration
22 February 2011	Gaddafi's speech about the demonstration: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69wBG6ULNzQ
17 March 2011	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973
19 March 2011	NATO's interference in the Libyan War
13 April 2011	Libya Contact Group, Doha, Qatar
16 September 2011	United Nations Support Mission in Libya was established
20 October 2011	Gaddafi's death
7 July 2012	The General National Congress was elected
14 February 2014	Haftar calls for the GNC to dissolve
16 May 2014	The Operation Dignity started
18 May 2014	Gen. Haftar's militia attacked parliament
4 August 2014	The House of Representatives was elected
17 December 2015	Libyan Political Agreement

UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973 (S/RES/1973)

The United Nations Security Council Resolution, on the situation in Libya, adopted a measure on March 2011 in order to stop the First Libyan Civil War. This resolution was proposed by France, Lebanon and the UK. So, by this resolution, legal basis were formed for military intervention to be attempted. It called for an immediate ceasefire. Some of the-key points are

the establishment of a no-fly zone over Libya, the arms embargo, assets freeze on Libyan authorities and the authorization of all necessary means to protect civilians.

You can find the resolution:

[https://www.undocs.org/S/RES/1973%20\(2011\)](https://www.undocs.org/S/RES/1973%20(2011))

- United Nations Security Council Resolution 2491 (S/RES/2491)
This is the most recent resolution passed on Libya. It allows member states to investigate vessels that are suspected to be used for migrant smuggling.
You can find the resolution:
https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2491.pdf
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 2486 (S/RES/2486)
The resolution allowed for the UNSML mission to continue until 15 September, 2020.
You can find the resolution:
https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2486.pdf
- Report on UNSMIL (R/2020/41)
The latest report on UNSMIL
You can find the report:
https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2020_41.pdf

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

a) NATO's interference in the First Libyan Civil War

In the First Libyan Civil War, NATO played a determinant role in the outcome of the War. With their air strikes and in general their military interference they tried to stop the war and establish peace and stability in the region. Specifically, in the Libya Contact Group in 2011, the participants agreed that Gaddafi had lost

all legitimacy and he must leave power, allowing Libyan people to determine their own future. So, in this meeting and according to the UN Security Council Resolution they allowed militia intervention in Libya, aiming to achieve “*positive results contributing to the protection of Libyan civilians and relieving their suffering*”, according to the official chair’s statement

b) Peace and Security Council (PSC)

The PSC of the African Union, in September 2019, discussed the need for this Council to get more involved in concluding the Libyan crisis. In their 857th session, they proposed a number of other measures that should be taken in order to ameliorate the situation. For example, they suggested that Libyan authorities take action in protecting civilians, including migrants and refugees in line with the International Humanitarian Law and Human Right Law. They also demanded the warring factions in Libya to commit a permanent ceasefire and they stressed the importance of national dialogue in order to promote political and inclusive solution to the crisis.

c) Libyan National Conference

The Libyan National Conference was planned to take place in 14-16 April 2019 and aimed to organize elections, in the content of the peace process in Libya. The conference was prepared over one and a half years, but it was postponed in early April 2019, because of military actions. This conference only wanted to make recommendation, with no executive power. The special representative of the Secretary General in Libya, Ghassan Salame made an official statement, noting that he is “more determined than ever to hold the National Conference at the earliest possible opportunity, as we cannot allow the historic opportunity it presents to be lost.”¹⁰So, this conference is expected to happen as soon as possible and it was postponed only because of the incidents, according to these statements.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

This topic is not a simple one, it is a longstanding issue and thus it is not easily solved. It has many aspects and in your resolution you are called to cover all of them. The one thing that you shouldn’t forget is that a peaceful solution is needed in

the crisis in Libya. So, the question is how this is going to be achieved. You should focus on the three main aspects of the issue, namely political, economic and humanitarian.

a) Political Aspect

Firstly, you should examine whether the foreign interventions, both politically and military, are helpful to the situation. Negotiations are needed in order to have fair and efficient elections to agree on a form of government, economic reforms and generally, the changes that should be made to ameliorate the situation. Don't forget that there have been many attempts of having elections already, yet this didn't manage to yield results. So, you should think of an effective way to accomplish political stability in Libya.

b) Economic Aspect

In this aspect of the issue you have to focus on the changes that need to happen in order to ameliorate the country's economy. So, when it comes to the economic reforms, you shouldn't forget that oil exports are the main source of the country's income, so it is of utmost importance to establish laws in order to stop the illegal oil exports. You should also try to find ways to develop the country's economy, maybe by investing in other sectors expect of the oil industry.

c) Humanitarian Aspect

A crucial issue in Libya is the violations of International Humanitarian Law. You should find ways to condemn the use of force against civilians and make sure that the IHL is implemented. You can maybe consider if this can be achieved by increasing the UN's in-country presence. Apart from that, there is a huge need of humanitarian aid for the people in Libya. They are facing a huge crisis and both member states of the UN and non-governmental organizations should take measures to help them. So, it is very important to cover this perspective of the issue in your resolution.

Having said the above, I want to remind you that while forming your resolution, you have to make sure that it is according to the country's policy that you

represent. Finally, we wish you all have a careful and detailed, but pleasant study and that you form a resolution full of effective solutions on the issue.

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