

Permanent Mission of Libya
to the United Nations
New York

Statement by His Excellency
Mr. Agila Saleh Essa
President of the House of Representative
before the 69th Session of the General Assembly
New York, 27 September, 2014

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincerest congratulations to you, His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa, on your assumption of the presidency of the 69th session of the General Assembly, and I am confident that you will steer the work of this session to the best results. Allow me to commend the efforts made by H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for achieving the objectives of the organization and for promoting international peace and security. I would like to thank him in particular for standing with the Libyan people during the revolution against dictatorship, and for providing support for the nascent democracy after the revolution.

I am honored to stand before you today as a representative of the Libyan people and convey to you their ambitions, pains, and hopes, to participate with you in the quest for the best ways to maintain peace and security on our planet, and achieve the common aspirations of our peoples.

There is no doubt that those who witnessed the revolution of the Libyan people against dictatorship in 2011 were impressed by the courage, unity, awareness and the

creative capabilities of the Libyan people. But today, there is no doubt that many of you are astonished with the fighting in Libya, the bloodshed between brothers, and the unjustified destruction of installations and public and private properties. Many may wonder: Where are the people that we saw three years ago? Where are the unarmed revolutionaries who flocked into the streets to defend their rights? Where are the intellectuals who flooded the media with realistic assessments and convinced the world of the justice of their people's cause?

I would say, yes, that was the true Libyan people who did not think in material gains or leadership positions. Their only aspiration was to put an end to dictatorship and pave the road for democracy to ensure a prosperous future for all Libyans.

Unfortunately, Libya is in a completely different situation. Most of the activists had left the political arena; either because of the forcibly-imposed political isolation law or because of intimidation, arrests and assassinations perpetrated by various armed groups against those who oppose their opinion or call for their disarmament and demobilization.

Some armed groups are no longer subject to the Government direction, as they try to impose their will on the Libyan people by force, violate human rights, blackmail the government to ensure access to funds, while they refuse to arm the police, and to reinstitute and arm the army.

The conflict existing between the armed groups in and around Tripoli, forced the government to evacuate all of its premises which were seized by a coalition of armed groups including a terrorist group with al-Qaeda ideology, known for its stand against state institutions building, and placed on the list of terrorist organizations by the United States and the European Union. This coalition, known as "Dawn of Libya", has captured the city of Tripoli, destroyed the airport, and severely damaged the parked aircrafts. Moreover, residences of many ministers and citizens were looted and burned down. The so-called "Dawn of Libya" coalition is still waging war on the region West of the city of Tripoli inhabited by Warshafana tribe. The indiscriminate shelling with heavy weaponry caused the exodus of most of its population which led the House of Representatives to declare the area a disaster area.

This could not have happened if the international community took the situation in Libya seriously, assisted the government to establish a strong army, and added pressure for the disarmament of armed groups, and supported arming the police.

The armed groups capturing the capital declared clearly their recalcitrance against the legitimate institutions of the state, and their quest to overthrow the elected House of Representatives, and the emerged government, in an apparent effort to derail the process of democratic transition and topple the legitimate authority by forming a parallel government. Furthermore, the group has also prosecuted political activists, human rights defenders, and journalists, shut down media channels, forcibly prevented opponents from demonstrating in the city of Tripoli and other cities, recruited media and some radical clerics to incite the killing of those with different opinions, or those who supported the elected House of Representatives and the government. The group allied itself with Ansar al-Sharia (Sharia' Supporters), which belongs to the ideology of al-Qaeda and practiced terrorism in some Libyan cities, especially the cities of Benghazi and Derna, and provided a safe haven and training camps for terrorists from all over the world, especially from Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt and Mali, and all of these by an unrivaled financial and media support from outside in order to undermine the legitimate Libyan authorities and allow the group to implement the coup plot.

From this podium, I say that turning a blind eye to terrorism in Libya is deemed unacceptable. Our people can no longer tolerate assassinations, humiliation, intimidation, suppression of freedoms, and human rights violations based on individual's background and belief. The international community has either to stand with the elected legitimate authorities and implement UN Security Council Resolution (2174) by imposing sanctions on those who hinder the political process, undermine security, and seize the State institutions, or say very clearly that the Libyans have to face terrorism alone. Hence, the international community must withstand the effects of terrorism expansion in North Africa and the Sahel region.

We need to have a serious stand by the Friends of Libya to help reinstitute the army and provide it with the necessary means to stop the fighting among brothers, and assist in the fight to combat terrorism and extremism, which form a broad front stretching from

Iraq to Algeria. This could not be achieved without the alliance of the States concerned to ensure the elimination of terrorism, and the dissemination of the principles of tolerance and democracy.

The failure to provide arms and training to the Libyan army in its war against terrorism is in the interest of extremism, devotes instability in Libya, and would negatively affect the stability of the region and threatens global peace.

We welcome all efforts and goodwill by friendly countries, the United Nations, the Arab League and the African Union to help the legitimate Libyan authorities gain control over the insecurity, either by a bold stand with the House of Representatives, the government and the constitution-drafting body and persuade the armed groups to give up their arms and withdraw from State institutions and obey the government direction, or through the exercise of pressure on the political movements and armed groups to renounce violence and accept the dialogue on priorities and the future of Libya.

Every illegitimate contact, unauthorized by the government, of any foreign country with individuals, groups and organizations who does not recognized the authorities of the elected House of Representatives and the government and takes violence as means to impose their vision on the Libyan people will be considered by the government an unfriendly act against the unity of Libya and its stability, hence, will take the necessary measures to confront it.

The Libyan people under the leadership of the legitimate authority will not submit to blackmail and intimidation, and will resist any attempt to impose a totalitarian dictatorship under any slogan. We hope that the government should not need the assistance of brotherly and friendly countries to extend State authority over its territory, and eliminate terrorism and criminality that threaten Libya's security and unity, cause the displacement of hundreds of thousands from their homes in various parts of Libya, and destroy the economy.

The House of Representatives and the government are determined to pursue the path of dialogue and tolerance in the framework of legitimacy, to solve all the problems and differences between the Libyans, agree on priorities, respect the democratic process, resort to law and elections; along with their determination to demobilize all armed

formations and to stop funding it by the end of the current year. We hope that the international community would help us on the following:

1. State-building of Defence and security organs and enable the government to monopolize the legitimate use of force to be capable of disarming the armed groups and exercise its authority over all Libya's territory.
2. To ensure the government control over the capital, Tripoli, and the withdrawal of armed groups from State institutions so they could work without threat and provide services to the citizens.
3. To consider that the establishment of illegal institutions established in parallel with the existing bodies is impeding the political process and is subject to the sanctions under Security Council resolution 2174.
4. To establish a genuine and active cooperation in the field of combating terrorism through a strategic alliance between Libya and its neighboring countries North and South of the Mediterranean.
5. To strengthen the culture of dialogue without exclusion or marginalization, and to initiate a comprehensive dialogue for all Libyan people with the help of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, the neighboring countries, the Arab League and the African Union.

I must point out, at the beginning of the 69th session of the General Assembly of which one of its main topics would be the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda, that since the declaration of the Millennium Development Goals, Libya has started to review its economic policies and restructure its economy to achieve those goals. However, the deteriorating security situation disrupted the economy. Here, the close linkage among security, stability and development should be noted. Without security, there will be no development and vice-versa. Therefore, restoring security and stability in Libya is a key factor to launch development and bring the disrupted economy back on track as well as to achieve the remaining MDG, and being fully ready to achieve Post-2015 MDGs, once adopted.

Therefore, Libya is looking forward to the support of the United Nations and friendly countries in restoring security and the capacity-building of military and security institutions in order to ensure launching programs for reconstruction and development. We look forward to the assistance of all countries to Libya to recover the looted funds abroad in order to enable Libya to increase funding for development and infrastructure programs, which will eliminate unemployment and absorb large numbers of foreign workers estimated to few millions from the neighboring countries, to benefit both Libya and the neighboring countries, and contribute to limit the illegal immigration to Europe in search of work and decent living conditions.

Despite the circumstances in Libya, we can not forget the tragedy of the Palestinian people and their suffering, taking refuge in various countries around the world, in light of the Israeli occupation. We reaffirm our condemnation of the Israeli occupation and its practices in the Palestinian and Arab occupied territories, and call for the Security Council to provide protection for the Palestinian people, set a timetable to end the Israeli occupation and ensure independence of the Palestinian State as a sovereign state on all the Palestinian territories, with East Jerusalem as its capital, to enable its access to all international organizations as a full member, and to enable the Palestinian people to return to their lands, from which they had been forced to flee.

The continued blockade and the repetition of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip and the destruction of infrastructure brought shame upon civilized humanity. The international community should be committed to the reconstruction of Gaza and to prevent the reoccurrence of destruction and killing by the Israeli army, as well as the prosecution of all those responsible for war crimes committed in the Gaza Strip, and support the efforts of the government of national reconciliation, led by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Thank you Mr. President.