Security Council

Launching a peacekeeping mission in Libya.

Contributors: Zarogianni Fotini, Ioannidou Argiro

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

In order for you to be fully prepared for the session, you should follow the next steps:

1. Get accustomed to the procedure of the session. Please feel free to read the procedure in the official website of ArcMUN 2017.(http://aristoteliocollegemun.weebly.com/rules-of-procedure.html) We will explain the procedure once more when in person, so please do not worry that much for the rules from now.
2. Read your Study Guide and indulge yourselves in individual research. Read the links provided in this guide and also do research in other websites and mass media. However, keep in mind that you should conduct your research based on official data provided by formal websites (i.e. the UN website, the European Commission etc.)
3. Know the policy of the country you are representing. You should always bear in mind that during the conference you will be representing a **specific country** and its policies and not your personal point of view on the issue debated.
4. You should know not only your country's view on the topic, but also some general information regarding alliances, geopolitical state, natural resources etc.
5. Write and send to the committee email before **February 1st**, a position paper, in which you will explain **your country's point of view, measures and possible suggestions on our topic; "Launching a peacekeeping mission in Libya".** Visit the session's website to see the official example of a position paper and how it should be structured.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE

Libya is the fourth largest state in Northern Africa bordering Egypt, Sudan, Niger, Chad, Algeria and the Mediterranean Sea and its capital is Tripoli. In 1951, Libya became an independent kingdom until 1969, when a military coup led by Colonnel Muammar Gaddafi overthrew King Idris I. Gaddafi ruled in Libya until the First Libyan Civil War (2011) between those supporting his regime and those opposing it, with the latter being supported by NATO. The conflict ended with Gaddafi being executed and the General National Congress (GNC) seizing power after the elections held in 2012 while replacing the National Transitional Council (NTC). Meanwhile, an unofficial government in Tobruk, the Council of Deputies (later known as the House of Representatives or HoR), was organised. In 2013, the GNC extended its mandate for at least one year, although it should have been dissolved. In 2014, the HoR was democratically elected and was recognized as the official government of Libya. Thus, Libya was consisted of two rivalling power bases, the GNC supported by Islamist groups and the HoR by anti-Islamist ones.

 In the aftermath of the war, the disagreements between these local military groups and their refusal to disarm themselves and cooperate threatened once again the stability in the area highlighting the need for an UN intervention. Therefore, in 2015 an agreement to form a unified government, the Government of National Accord (GNA), was signed. Despite all UN efforts and the fact that it is recognized as the legitimate government of Libya, the GNA has not yet fully established its authority, since the two other unofficial governments (HoR in Tobruk and GNC in Tripoli) refuse to cooperate.

 Apart from the conflicts mentioned above, Libya is also facing the threat of ISIS (or ISIL or Da'esh). ISIS is an active terrorist group aiming to impose their religion through public executions, crucifixions, beheadings and other brutal actions. All these actions can be described as "holy war" (jihad). ISIS was established in Libya as a branch and a purpose-

built affiliate by its core leadership in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq. It gained control over Libyan territory in a relatively short period and even managed to conquer the town of Sirte in 2015. In December of 2016, Libyan forces managed to secure last ISIS holdouts in Sirte. The capture of Sirte, though, does not help effectively in resolving the basic political problems dogging the establishment of the GNA.

BASIC DEFINITIONS

- **UNSMIL (UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN LIBYA) :** The United Nations Support Mission for Libya is a special **political** mission established in 2011 by the UN Security Council in its Resolution 2009 (September 2011) at the request of the Libyan authorities following six months of armed conflict to support the country's new transitional authorities in their post-conflict efforts. **The mandate of the Mission has been extended until the 15th of September 2017 with the Resolution 2323 (December 2016).**

- **PEACEKEEPING OPERATION:** Based on the Charter of the UN, the Security Council's primary responsibility is to maintain international peace and security. In order to achieve this, the Council can establish a UN peacekeeping operation by adopting a resolution that clearly declares its mandate, size, tasks and other details.

Such an operation, is based on **three principles**: the **consent** of the main parties to the conflict, the **impartiality** of all peacekeeping authorities and the **non-use of force** except in self-defense and defense of the mandate. It should also be mentioned that, according to the type and nature of a peacekeeping mission in general, operations are differentiated in **traditional, robust** or **expanded peacekeeping** and **peace enforcement**. Traditional peacekeeping serves mostly observational purposes. Expanded or robust peacekeeping include the use of force at the tactical level with the authorization of the Security Council and consent of the host nation and/or the main parties to the conflict. By contrast, peace enforcement does not require the consent of the main parties and may involve the use of military force at the strategic or international level.

INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The UN Security Council has adopted several Resolutions concerning the situation in Libya. Through them, the Council has underlined its decision "to remain actively seized of the matter" as seen in the last clause of each Resolution.

More specifically, with these Resolutions the Council requests the Secretary General to report on their implementation, establishes and extends the mandate of the UNSMIL (as mentioned above), calls for the creation of the Government of National Accord backed by the UN sets out some of its tasks. Furthermore, it urges all member-states to support this Government both in general and concerning the defeat of ISIS, Al-Quaeda, Ansar Al Sharia and all other similar groups operating in Syria, condemns cases of violation of fundamental human rights, enforces an arms embargo on Libya and requests its strong implementation.

Special attention should be given at the Resolutions of 2015 and 2016.[1]

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[1] http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/

All the above are an indication of the role of the Council so far concerning the situation in Libya. The fact, though, that this situation shifts and turns each and every day and that more and more problems arise raises the question of the immediate, further and, perhaps, different than the above action of the Council.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

1. Is launching a peacekeeping mission the most appropriate step to take, considering the current situation in Libya?
2. If a mission is launched, what should its mandate, size and specific purpose be?
3. If an operation is **not** launched, what other measures could the UN take to ensure the existence of peace, security and stability in the area?

SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libyan_Civil_War_(2011)
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- https://unsmil.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5662&ctl=Details&mid=6187&ItemID=2099795&language=en-US
- http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/libya/
- http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/
- http://internationalrelations.org/libyan-civil-war/
- http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13754897
- http://www.reuters.com/places/libya

Reminder: Be up to date with the ongoing situation in the area by visiting news pages.

For any further detail, please do not hesitate to contact us via email (scouncil.arcmun@gmail.com).

The Board,

Zarogianni Fotini, Ioannidou Argiro