

United Nations Security Council Calls on Libyan Warring Parties to Reach Agreement



United Nations, June 18 (RHC)-- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has called on all Libyan rival factions to accept a draft UN agreement and form a unity government in a bid to resolve the ongoing conflict in the North African state.

The UNSC on Wednesday underlined the “urgency for the Libyan parties to agree on a Government of National Accord” and “positively” review a draft proposed by UN special envoy to Libya, Bernardino Leon, earlier this month during talks in Morocco.

Libya’s parliament dropped out of the UN-brokered negotiations last week in protest at the plan which would mean sharing power with its rivals. The council members said such an agreement is critical to ending Libya’s political, security and institutional crises, and to confront the rising threat of terrorism.

They also underlined that there can be no military solution to the crisis in Libya, where two rival governments are striving to gain control of the country. The Fajr Libya (Libya Dawn) militia loyal to Libya’s Tripoli-based government has welcomed the proposed agreement, but said “modifications” needed to be made before it would sign a final version of the deal.

Libya's internationally-recognized government, however, has voiced “displeasure” with parts of the draft UN agreement and suggested changes.

The North African country plunged into chaos following the ouster of former ruler Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, which gave rise to a patchwork of heavily-armed militias and deep political divisions. Following years of internal fighting, the capital, Tripoli, is under the control of the Fajr militias, while the eastern city of Tobruk is home to the recognized government.

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