

Launch of the Stabilization Facility for Libya

Minutes of Meeting

Opening remarks

The Stabilization Facility for Libya was launched at the Senior Officials' Meeting in Tunis on 12th of April 2016 by a panel including representative of the Libyan Presidency Council, H.E. Dr. Taher Al-Jehaimi, Minister of Planning; Mr. Rüdiger König, Director General of Crisis Prevention, Stabilization and Peace Building in the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany; Mr. Ali Al-Za'tari, UNSMIL Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Dr. Noura Hamladji, UNDP Libya Country Director as well as 47 representatives of member states and United Nations agencies in Libya.

In his opening remarks, H.E. Dr. Taher Al-Jehaimi highlighted the importance of restoring stability in Libya and how the Stabilization Facility was an element of the overall GNA efforts to stabilize Libya. He was pleased with the suggested way on how the Stabilization Facility would enhance coordination between national and local stakeholders and UNDP, and how it included both the concrete rehabilitation elements that would restore infrastructure and the soft components to support municipalities. He remarked that the media component was missing from the Facility and should be included.

Mr. Ali Al-Za'tari formally launched the Facility and highlighted how it comes at a critical juncture in Libya. He congratulated the Presidency Council on achievements made following their arrival in Tripoli, but acknowledged that a great deal of hard work was still needed as the Libyan population is now expecting concrete improvements on the ground. He explained how the Stabilization Facility will support the GNA in providing tangible and visible quick wins that will help establish trust among the population towards the GNA. He thanked the Presidency Council on their leadership in establishing the Stabilization Facility, and Germany and other international partners for their support and financial contributions.

Mr. Rüdiger König explained how pleased the German Government was to see the positive news on transfer of authority taking place in Tripoli, and the expanding support towards the GNA among population. He highlighted the importance of providing concrete peace dividends to the population and how the Stabilization Facility can make a real difference on the ground. He pledged ten million euros for the two years in support of the Facility.

Dr. Noura Hamladji presented the objectives, principles and characteristics of the Stabilization Facility to be achieved through activities in the areas of: i) rehabilitation of critical infrastructure and businesses, ii) boosting municipal capacity, and iii) enhancing local conflict resolution. She outlined the next steps required for operationalization of the Facility, including the need to sign cost sharing agreements with donors, and obtain the GNA nomination on the co-chair of the Facility. If all the background work is finalized in April, the Facility could be operational by mid-May.

Discussion

The Ambassador of the United States of America welcomed the arrival of the PC in Tripoli and strongly supports the Stabilization Facility. Subject to the final approval of the US Congress, the US Government pledges two million dollars for the first year of the Facility, possibly \$4 million over two years.

The representative of the Foreign Ministry of Italy supported the establishment of the Stabilization Facility as a concrete tool to support national and local actors in Libya. Italy pledged two million euros for the first year of the Facility.

The representative of Switzerland stressed the commitment of Switzerland to peace and security and the support of the Government of Switzerland to the Stabilization Facility. The Swiss government will contribute \$250,000 towards the peacebuilding elements of the Facility and will consider an additional contribution in 2017.

The representative of South Korea announced that they will contribute to restoring stability in Libya and that they are in a process of agreeing on a contribution to the Stabilization Facility.

The British Ambassador explained that the UK Government found the Stabilization Facility focused and targeted and pledged one million dollars in support of the Facility. He highlighted the importance of managing expectations and inquired how UNDP would avoid sensitivities related to the selection of localities given that those sensitivities go beyond the division of East, West and South, and choosing locations within the three would not be straightforward. He also inquired whether the Libyan Government would contribute to the Facility.

The EU Ambassador declared that the Stabilization Facility was exactly what Libya needs now and that the EU had already promised that it would be ready to provide \$100 million to Libya when the situation allows. The EU was not ready to pledge an exact figure towards the Stabilization Facility right now, but promised that the contribution would be generous.

The Canadian Ambassador explained that his Government strongly supports the Stabilization Facility and was also considering a financial contribution to the fund.

The Norwegian Ambassador was pleased with the momentum in Libya since the arrival of the Presidency Council and found the Stabilization Facility a great way of supporting the stabilization efforts. Norway was considering a one-million-dollar initial contribution to the Facility.

The Ambassador of Netherlands explained that the Netherlands are supporting relevant quick win interventions in Libya, and that his Government was also considering a contribution towards the Stabilization Facility.

The representative of Russia pledged the commitment of Russia to rebuilding Libya, and promised that Russia would also soon announce their commitment to the Facility.

The Ambassador of Qatar announced the full support of the Government of Qatar towards the Stabilization Facility and pledged two million dollars to the Facility.

The Ambassador of Algeria recognized the importance of stabilization efforts in Libya and pledged the support of the Government of Algeria to Libya.

The Country Director of UNDP Libya acknowledged the sensitivity of the selection of the locations and explained that the Board would have to carefully consider the suggested locations also from a conflict sensitivity perspective. She also clarified that media and communications was indeed an important element of the Stabilization Facility and that we later added a communications officer based in Tripoli to support the GNA in communicating about the project.

H.E. Dr. Taher Al-Jehaimi thanked the partners in the interest and pledges of support towards the Stabilization Facility and promised that the Libyan Government would also contribute to the Facility.

The launch ended with the signing of the Letter of Intent between the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany and UNDP on the German 2016 contribution to the Stabilization Facility.

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