



Security Council

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Letter dated 21 November 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my last report on Libya dated 5 September 2013 (S/2013/516), which provided an update on the situation in Libya and the activities of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). In section IV of the report, entitled “Safety and security” and in my observations, I noted the overall deterioration of the security situation and the continued lack of effective host government protection for the United Nations (see S/2013/516, paras. 84, 85 and 100). Regrettably, the situation has not improved and United Nations staff are at increased risk of attack.

In October 2013, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, in consultation with my Special Representative and Head of UNSMIL, Tarek Mitri, deployed a joint directors’ mission to Libya. The mission included directors from the Department of Field Support, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Safety and Security and the United Nations Development Programme. The mission aimed to take stock of UNSMIL and its ability to deliver its mandate in the changing and challenging Libyan context. Of paramount importance was an evaluation of the new security dynamics at play in Libya and the safety and security of staff. The joint directors’ mission confirmed the urgent need to implement measures that enhance the protection of United Nations personnel and installations, especially in the light of the lack of reliable national security forces.

Based on an assessment of the prevailing threats and risks for United Nations personnel and premises, the findings of the joint directors’ mission and my own conversations with senior managers, we have explored several options to improve security for the staff in Libya.

I have considered the possibility of deploying a United Nations guard unit to enhance the security arrangements currently in place. Such a guard unit would provide perimeter security and access control for United Nations facilities and installations in Tripoli. It would act as a deterrent against possible attacks by extremist elements who are not welcoming of foreign personnel. The guard unit would also be able to relocate United Nations personnel under imminent threat of physical violence to safer locations.

In this regard, the Secretariat has developed plans for the deployment of a United Nations guard unit comprising military units, provided as contingents by Member States, to form part of UNSMIL. Based on the recommendation of a



reconnaissance team that I recently dispatched to Tripoli, I propose that the guard unit consist of up to 235 military personnel.

Pending the conclusion of an amendment to the existing status-of-mission agreement for UNSMIL that would extend the necessary legal protection to the guard unit and to the States contributing contingents, it would be understood that the provisions of the model status-of-forces agreement (A/45/594) that apply to, and in respect of, the military personnel of national contingents assigned to the military component of a United Nations operation and to the property, funds and assets of the States contributing those contingents shall apply provisionally to, and in respect of, the military personnel of national contingents assigned to the guard unit and to the property, funds and assets of the States contributing those contingents.

I have also considered the option of contracting an armed private security company to perform the functions of the guard unit as described above. I have taken into consideration General Assembly resolution 67/254 of 12 April 2013, in which the Assembly recommended that the United Nations proceed with the recruitment of an armed private security company only as a last resort and when other alternatives, including protection by the host country, other support from Member States or internal United Nations system resources, are inadequate. I therefore recommend the deployment of a guard unit to UNSMIL, using the military option outlined above, rather than contracting an armed private security company.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that these arrangements are acceptable to the Security Council. If so, it would then be my intention to proceed with the establishment and deployment of the guard unit.

In keeping with existing practice, I would, in due course, notify the Security Council of the concurrence of the troop-contributing country or countries whose units would be deployed to Tripoli.

(Signed) **BAN** Ki-moon
