

Beat: Politics

## 30 LEADERS PRES. MACRON & U.S VP KAMALA HARRIS HELD A SUMMIT ON LIBYA IN PARIS

### OVER INCLUSIVE ELECTORAL PROCESS

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**USPA NEWS** - An international conference on Libya was held in Paris this Friday, November 12 with the ambition of giving a final "impetus" to the electoral process in Libya, whose presidential (and legislative) outbursts are scheduled for December 24, in order to "ensure stability in the country within a democratic framework. About thirty heads of state and government were invited by French President Emmanuel Macron, and this conference was also marked by the exceptional presence of the Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris, who came to Paris for a five-day visit. This But a month and a half before the presidential election of December 24, there is no guarantee that the electoral calendar will be kept or that the electoral process will put an end to political and security chaos. The international conference on Libya, co-chaired by Germany, Italy, France, the United Nations and Libya, which is being held on November 12 is part of a process of international mediation in the Libyan crisis . Indeed, this country, from the Maghreb, is experiencing a long crisis born from the revolution against its leader Mummar Gaddafi and the fall of his regime in 2011 plunging the country into chaos

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### THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LIBYA COMMUNIQUE OF 7 PAGES EMPHASIZES ON AN INCLUSIVE ELECTION PROCESS OPEN TO ALL-----

What remains is for the Libyan's leaders in transition, to agree to a final joint statement (A seven (7) pages document ), known as a mutual decision, on commitments to ensure the success of the next elections, and the first withdraw of three hundred mercenaries, as they will quit the country. The Paris summit communique of seven pages, released, on 12 November 2021, evening, put strong emphasis on an inclusive election process open to all, suggesting the election rules should be rewritten to allow Ali Dbeibeh to stand.

### LIST OF THE COUNTRIES LEADERS ATTENDING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LIBYA-----

On 12 November 2021, the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, the Federal Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel, the President of the Italian Council of Ministers, Mario Draghi, and the President of the interim Presidency Council of Libya, Mohamed el Menfi, the Prime Minister of the interim Government of National Unity of Libya, Abdehamid Dbeibah, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, co-convened a conference of Heads of State and Government on Libya, in Paris, in support of the implementation of a Libyan-led and owned political process facilitated by the United Nations, leading to a political solution to the Libyan crisis. « The main countries involved in supporting the political process in Libya are present and I especially want to salute the participation of the Vice President of the United States, Kamala HARRIS, as well as all the participants in the conference and all the

countries and regional organizations that have fully supported the Libyan transition process. » President Macron stated.-----

The following countries and regional organizations participated in the Conference: Algeria, Chad, China, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of Congo (chair of the African Union), Egypt, Greece, Jordan, Kuwait (Chair of the Ministerial Council of the League of Arab States), Malta, Morocco, the Netherlands, Niger, Qatar, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, the Republic of the Congo (Chair of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya), the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the African Union, the European Union, the League of Arab States and the Executive Secretariat of the Group of Five for the Sahel.

We are publishing the full text of the Remarks delivered by French President Macron, at the Press Conference which followed the meeting, all afternoon long, bringing together some thirty heads of state and government in Paris (La Maison la Chimie). The summit also tried to build momentum behind repeated calls for the withdrawal of foreign forces. Turkey wishes to keep its troops in the country, insisting they are present at the invitation of the previous Tripoli-based government. President Macron explained how the next steps have been getting closer to an end of chaos and that the crisis might be soon to end, towards a democratic process for a sustainable stability « I look forward to welcoming you to Paris as part of this international conference for Libya that we have just co-chaired with the United Nations. Libya is once again at a crossroads and it is the way out of the crisis and the country's transition are being played out today in conditions the difficulties of which should not be minimized. These are ten years of disorder, of upheaval - in which, it must be said, the international community is not without responsibility - but which are a tragedy both for the Libyan people but also for the whole region, the continent. Africa and the Mediterranean, with humanitarian, political, profound consequences and a destabilization that we are experiencing. A lot of work has been carried out in recent years in which we have all participated with several initiatives: at Celle-Saint-Cloud then in Paris in 2017 and 2018, in Palermo, in Berlin, in Tripoli recently. I do not forget the Cairo initiative, the Skhirat accords, the mediation carried out by both the African Union, the Arab League and the excellent work of the United Nations carried out in recent months.

The summit we held today has several characteristics. The first thing is that for the first time, it is co-chaired by the Libyan authorities and I thank the President of the Council and the Prime Minister for their presence and for what it alone represents that they co-chair together at our side this summit.-----

President Macron acknowledged « The second thing is that in this unprecedented format, I really want to thank Angela MERKEL and Mario DRAGHI, who are also co-chairing this conference with me, for translating a perfectly aligned and coordinated European desire and for moving fully together on this subject. » President Macron recalled the impacts on the region : Third point: we involved all the neighboring countries in this conference and, I think, it was a decisive element on several subjects to have precisely the countries of the region directly impacted by the crisis, in particular Chad and the Niger, to name a few. » President Macron explained-----

The President continued « Finally, this conference made it possible to demonstrate the convergence and unity of the international community in favor of Libya. The main countries involved in supporting the political process in Libya are present and I especially want to salute the participation of the Vice President of the United States, Kamala HARRIS, as well as all the participants in the conference and all the countries and regional organizations that have fully supported the Libyan transition process. What was therefore noted during this conference were two things that were our two main objectives. First, the electoral process and the December 24 elections. We now have an electoral framework and calendar. Presidential candidates have started registering ahead of the first round scheduled for December 24. The international community unanimously supported this calendar and the organization of the elections on that date. » President Macron acknowledged

#### PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE SINCE THE SIGNATURE OF THE END OF OCTOBER 2020 AGREEMENT-----

President Macron stressed the importance of the electoral process to be inclusive open to all, in order to be sustainable and successful : » The key is now in the smooth running of the work and the role that the Libyan authorities and institutions have in the coming days and weeks to allow for a fully inclusive process and the integration of all stakeholders who wish to this process. electoral. Both the Arab League, the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations have indicated their availability to help the smooth running of these elections before, during and after. These advances could not have been achieved without the relative stability that has prevailed since the signing of the ceasefire agreement in October 2020. And this framework that we are supporting today protects Libya from war and must be fully applied. President Macron acknowledged put a strong emphasize on the implementation of the ceasefire: « I would also like to salute here the courageous and determined action of the Libyans within the military committee that until today was called the 5 + 5 joint military committee and which you have renamed, Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. President the military committee of 10 which oversaw the early stages of the implementation of the ceasefire and drew up an action plan for the departure of all foreign forces and mercenaries. » The ceasefire in fact does not mean peace and that is why the second major outlet of this conference is the withdrawal plan and the first gestures of withdrawal of foreign mercenaries. Indeed, the withdrawal plan was built by the military committee in June. This plan must now be implemented and today we have taken the first steps in its implementation »

President Macron acknowledged

#### A FIRST STEP WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF 300 MERCENARIES FROM LIBYA

President Macron acknowledged explained and detailed the withdrawal of 300 mercenaries, ready to leave the country « A first step was indeed taken with the announcement yesterday by the Libyan Joint Military Committee of the withdrawal of 300 mercenaries who are preparing as we speak to you to leave Libya. This is only a start, but it is an essential start that finally gives credibility to a process that we have been talking about for too long. These mercenaries will therefore be leaving Libyan territory in the coming weeks and I want to thank the involvement of neighboring African countries, in particular Chad. This process will be done within the framework of a process known as DDR which will be supervised by the United Nations, in which we are all deeply involved to help with the supervision and obviously with the financing. »-----

President Macron added : « It's only a beginning. Turkey and Russia must also withdraw without delay their mercenaries and their military forces, whose presence threatens the stability and security of the country and the entire region. After a decade of violence, divisions and instability, the prospect of elections arouses doubt, even opposition, from all those who fear democratic change and from all those who have basically become war profiteers. We must therefore remain mobilized to ensure that free, impartial and transparent elections are held. »

#### THE LIBYAN TRANSITION MUST BE COMPLETED AND THANKS TO THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS » PRESIDENT MACRON SAID-----

The Libyan transition must be completed and the elections must take place under the best possible conditions so that the different actors can each play their role. Libyan stakeholders also recognized today, made a commitment today to recognize election results, whatever they may be. The international community will have to contribute, as I said, to the smooth running, sending observers. Many other challenges remain, we know. The health system is weakened. Food insecurity is on the rise. The most vulnerable civilian populations, especially internally displaced persons and refugees, are the most exposed to violations of humanitarian and human rights law. This is why we have also reaffirmed our collective commitment to strengthen our humanitarian support, to fight against trafficking in human beings and migrants and to continue working on other projects. But these two great objectives which were ours are today fulfilled in our eyes by an ambitious declaration and as you can see, the six weeks which come are decisive to carry out the good progress of these operations. I won't be any longer. I will give the floor to President MENFI.-----

After answering a grouped question from journalists, President Macron, "really thanked all the co-presidents and co-presidents of this conference and just have two words, one to thank the United Nations and especially Mr. Kubiš who has done a remarkable and courageous job on their behalf in the field. Thank you Ján Kubiš, for being present on a daily basis, and reiterating here ... and really reiterating here to all Libyans and all Libyans that our will is that they can exercise their sovereignty, have the right to vote and the right to live in peace and security. That is the core of our work. « .../

#### **Article online:**

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