



Security Council

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Implementation of resolution [2780 \(2025\)](#)

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution [2780 \(2025\)](#), the Security Council extended for the ninth time the authorizations related to the inspection of vessels on the high seas off the coast of Libya for a period of six months, until 29 November 2025. The authorizations were initially set out in resolution [2292 \(2016\)](#), in support of the implementation of the arms embargo with respect to Libya. The present report, requested by the Council on the implementation of resolution [2780 \(2025\)](#), was prepared after seeking input from all Member States, including Libya, and from regional organizations. In addition, consultations were held with the Panel of Experts on Libya established pursuant to resolution [1973 \(2011\)](#) and the United Nations system, including the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). The report covers the period from 15 April to 14 October 2025.¹

2. The arms embargo was established in resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#) and modified in subsequent resolutions. By its resolution [2292 \(2016\)](#), the Security Council authorized Member States, acting nationally or through regional organizations, with appropriate consultations with the Libyan authorities, to inspect, on the high seas off the coast of Libya, vessels bound to or from Libya that they had reasonable grounds to believe were carrying prohibited arms or related materiel to or from Libya. The Council also authorized Member States, upon discovery of prohibited items, to seize and dispose of those items and to collect evidence directly related to the carriage of such items during the inspections. In its resolution [2733 \(2024\)](#), the Council elaborated further the obligations of Member States and the role of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#) concerning Libya in relation to the disposal of items seized during such inspections. Provisions on the inspection of suspect cargo to and from Libya, as well as on the seizure and disposal of any prohibited items discovered during such inspections, were also included in resolutions [1970 \(2011\)](#) and [2213 \(2015\)](#), in relation to cargo in Member States' own territories, including at seaports and airports.

3. During the reporting period, against the backdrop of the continuing political stalemate, with both eastern and western actors seeking to enhance their military and security capabilities, UNSMIL took steps to relaunch an inclusive Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process. In that context, on 21 August, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and Head of UNSMIL, Hanna Tetteh,

¹ For previous reports, see [S/2018/451](#), [S/2019/380](#), [S/2020/393](#), [S/2021/434](#), [S/2022/360](#), [S/2023/308](#), [S/2023/936](#), [S/2024/352](#), [S/2024/858](#) and [S/2025/257](#).



presented to the Security Council a new political road map for the holding of national elections and the reunification of State institutions.

4. While the ceasefire agreement of October 2020 continued to hold, the security situation in Tripoli severely deteriorated in May 2025 following the killing of the head of the Stability Support Apparatus and the ensuing armed clashes and protests. Although a fragile truce was brokered on 14 May, the situation remained volatile in western parts of the country. In southern Libya, clashes were reported in areas bordering Chad in May and July and near the border with the Sudan in June.²

5. In this fragile political and security environment, the effective implementation of the arms embargo continues to be critical, including for creating conditions conducive to the implementation of the political road map proposed by UNSMIL. As noted in previous reports, the arms embargo, when effectively implemented, can contribute to reducing violence against civilians, abate the military build-up that is detrimental to progress in the Libyan political process, assist the Libyan authorities in ensuring security, and prevent the proliferation of arms in Libya and the region. It remains critical, therefore, that the arms embargo, coupled with the authorizations set out in resolutions [2292 \(2016\)](#) and [2780 \(2025\)](#), is strictly implemented in a comprehensive manner to prevent illicit transfers by air, land and sea.

II. Implementation of the authorizations set out in resolution [2292 \(2016\)](#) and extended in resolutions [2357 \(2017\)](#), [2420 \(2018\)](#), [2473 \(2019\)](#), [2526 \(2020\)](#), [2578 \(2021\)](#), [2635 \(2022\)](#), [2684 \(2023\)](#), [2733 \(2024\)](#) and [2780 \(2025\)](#)

6. The European Union military operation in the Mediterranean (Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI) remained the only regional arrangement acting under these authorizations during the reporting period.

Inspections

7. In paragraph 3 of resolution [2292 \(2016\)](#), the Security Council authorized Member States to inspect vessels, as set out in that paragraph, provided that those Member States made good-faith efforts to first obtain the consent of the vessel's flag State prior to any inspections and called upon all flag States of the vessels to cooperate with such inspections.

8. The European Union informed the Secretariat that, from 15 April to 14 October 2025, Operation IRINI had carried out 2,079 hailings, 52 friendly approaches and 2 vessel inspections related to the arms embargo. Consent for both vessel inspections was given after the four-hour time frame provided by IRINI and after the inspections had commenced.

9. The European Union also informed the Secretariat that there were no occasions on which a vessel inspection had been attempted but not carried out.

Seizure and disposal of prohibited items

10. In paragraph 5 of resolution [2292 \(2016\)](#), as amended by paragraph 2 of resolution [2733 \(2024\)](#), the Security Council authorized the Member States acting under the provisions of resolution [2292 \(2016\)](#) to seize and dispose (through destruction or rendering inoperable) of the prohibited items discovered during the vessel inspections, or, subject to approval by the Committee within 90 days after a

² See [S/2025/509](#).

request, dispose (such as through storage or transfer to a State other than the originating or destination States for disposal) of such items, without prejudice to the right of the Member States to safely retain those items in a holding area prior to disposal. In paragraph 4 of resolution [2733 \(2024\)](#), the Council further elaborated on the procedure for approval by the Committee.

11. In paragraph 3 of resolution [2733 \(2024\)](#), the Security Council decided that the Member State that seizes and disposes of the items, through destruction or rendering inoperable, shall notify the Committee of such disposal within 30 days providing details of the items and the manner of their disposal.

12. During the reporting period, the Committee did not receive any reports of the seizure or disposal of prohibited items.

III. Reporting obligations and sharing of relevant information

13. In paragraph 10 of resolution [2292 \(2016\)](#), Member States acting under the authorizations set out in that resolution were required to report to the Committee on the results of the inspections undertaken. In addition, in paragraph 11 of the same resolution, Member States and the Libyan authorities were encouraged to share relevant information with the Committee and with those Member States acting under the authorizations. The Panel of Experts was also encouraged to share relevant information with the Member States acting under the authorizations.

14. During the reporting period, the European Union conveyed three inspection reports to the Committee, two of which related to inspections conducted prior to 15 April. Operation IRINI reported that it continued to share information with the Panel of Experts on potential violations of the arms embargo in both eastern and western Libya, drawing on aerial and satellite assets in addition to the maritime assets, and through intelligence gathering. It also reported on its cooperation with law enforcement agencies, such as the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol).

15. The Panel of Experts, for its part, informed the Secretariat that it continued to follow the specific procedures for exchange of information with Operation IRINI.

IV. Inspections within the ambit of resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#)

16. Two States neighbouring Libya informed the Secretariat that they routinely monitored and inspected vessels suspected to be carrying arms or related materiel to or from Libya, as well as any vessel designated by the Security Council, within their territorial waters and jurisdictions. The European Union reported that the crime information cell located within the headquarters of Operation IRINI had made two recommendations for inspections in the ports of European Union member States, both of which had been carried out by the relevant law enforcement agencies.

17. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) informed the Secretariat that it continued, as previously reported, to support maritime law enforcement agencies of countries in the Mediterranean region in tackling illegal weapons trafficking by sea in the Eastern Mediterranean, including trafficking destined to Libya. In addition, UNODC reported on the implementation of the European Union-funded Maritime UN Sanctions Enforcement project. Launched in August 2024, the project provides capacity-building support to Member States to strengthen enforcement and compliance with the relevant Security Council sanctions.

V. Observations

18. In the aftermath of clashes in mid-May in Tripoli and in the context of overall political and security volatility in Libya, compliance with the arms embargo is critical to preventing any further escalation of internal armed conflict, improving prospects for the withdrawal of foreign forces, foreign fighters and mercenaries, and creating conditions for longer-term stability. Avoiding unilateral actions and taking incremental steps towards the reunification of military and security institutions remains crucial. Such steps include support for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed groups, once conditions are in place to initiate such processes. The Security Council and the Committee can take further action, including on the basis of the recommendations made by the Panel of Experts, to enhance the implementation of the arms embargo and to send a clear signal that violations of the embargo are detrimental to sustainable peace in Libya and the Sahel region.

19. All Member States can complement the efforts of Operation IRINI by inspecting cargo bound to or from Libya in their own territories, including at seaports and airports. In order to further strengthen the implementation of the arms embargo, it is important to continue with training and capacity-building of vetted members of Libyan entities that intercept vessels in Libyan territorial waters and process cargo at Libyan ports. Mechanisms should be put in place to ensure that the recipients of such assistance comply with international law, including international human rights law. The provision of border management support to countries neighbouring Libya, upon their request, can also contribute to enhancing the implementation of the arms embargo.

20. I would like to reiterate my appreciation for the continued efforts of the European Union, acting through Operation IRINI, under the authorizations extended by the Security Council in its resolution [2780 \(2025\)](#). Continued engagement with all relevant partners and stakeholders, in particular the Libyan authorities, remains important in the implementation of the authorizations related to vessel inspections.
