



THE EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF LIBYA

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

Libya Scope

Fall 2019

Energy and Economic Dialogue in Washington, D.C.



His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Syala
Libya's Minister of Foreign Affairs

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-His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Syala
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"The fight against ISIS is a long-term test of will, a test of civilization against barbarism. I know where we all stand."

-The Honorable Michael Pompeo
U.S. Secretary of State
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On October 14, 2019 the Libyan Government Economic Institutions met with several U.S. officials in Washington, D.C. to discuss advancing economic reforms and addressing Libya's challenges — an ongoing dialogue on which US and Libyan officials coordinate regularly.

Senior officials from the the U.S. Departments of State, Energy and Treasury and the National Security Council met with their Libyan

counterparts to review best practices to enhance the Libyan public's confidence in the transparency and sound governance of Libya's economic institutions and their ability to overcome the challenges impeding Libya's economic growth. Subsidy reforms and continued investment in the energy sector were also discussed.

This process remains a pillar of Libya's diplomatic engagement with the United States, and the next technical meeting was set to be in Tunis.





Launch of Security Dialogue between Libya and the US

On November 13, 2019 the U.S. Government and the Libyan Government of National Accord, represented by Foreign Minister Mohamed Syala and Minister of Interior Fathi Bashaagha, launched a US-Libyan security dialogue in Washington, D.C.

This will facilitate further U.S.-Libyan cooperation to prevent undue foreign interference, reinforce legitimate state authority, and address the issues underlying the conflict. The Government of National Accord's delegation expressed grave concerns regarding the security

situation and its effect on the civilian population.

The U.S. side was comprised of officials from the U.S. Department of State, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).



Libyan Ministers Speak to US Congress Members

Furthermore, Ministers Syala and Bashaaga met with members of the U.S. Congress to brief them about the latest developments in Libya. A timely visit in light of recent events and developments in Libya.

These meetings are part of senior Libyan officials' continuous engagement and cooperation with the United States.



Foreign Minister Addresses Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS at Conference

On November 14, 2019, Libya's Foreign Minister, His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Syala, addressed the Global Coalition to Defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) Small Group at a conference held at the US Department of State.

"We commend the important

developments in the Coalition to Defeat ISIS's efforts, especially the U.S. military forces' successful military operation to eliminate the organization's leader and a number of his assistants," Mr. Syala said US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo reaffirmed the importance of working against global terrorism:" The fight

against ISIS is a long-term test of will, a test of civilization against barbarism. I know where we all stand."

Foreign ministers from member states also spoke of their respective countries' commitment to fighting and combatting global terrorism.



Foreign Minister Addresses U.S. Institute of Peace

On November 15, 2019, Libya's Foreign Minister, His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Syala, spoke at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C. regarding the ongoing conflict in Libya. Mr. Syala called on the United States to take the lead on ending the negative impact of external influence on Libya's conflict.

Meetings with U.S. Congress Members Resume



Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis continued a series of meetings with U.S. Congressional members, including Senator Lindsey Graham, Congressman Ted Deutch, Senator James Risch, Congressman Eliot Engle and other prominent Congressmen. Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis updated members of Congress on the current situation in Libya and asked the United States' put pressure on other nations to mitigate their negative interference that has contributed to the deteriorating security situation in Libya.



Embassy Receives Looted Libyan Artifact



On October 3, 2019, the Embassy of the State of Libya in Washington, D.C. hosted a repatriation ceremony to celebrate the return of a looted sculpture that was illegally shipped to the United States. U.S. authorities seized a marble head sculpture of a veiled woman dating back to the sixth century BC. The sculpture's origin has been traced to Cyrene, in eastern Libya near present-day Shahhat.

The ceremony was attended by several U.S. Government officials from the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security.



"The endless efforts of the Council of American Ambassadors in fostering dialogue and mutual understanding are noteworthy. As a nonpartisan and non-profit organization, the Council's role is instrumental on many levels."

-Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis, P.7

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Ambassador Bughaighis Addresses Council of American Ambassadors

Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis addressed the Council of American Ambassadors in a roundtable discussion about Libya.

The discussion was attended by several US diplomats keenly interested in Libya, including Ambassador Timothy Chorba, the president of the Council.

In her remarks, Ambassador Bughaighis stressed the following: "The endless efforts of the Council of American Ambassadors in fostering dialogue and mutual understanding are noteworthy. As a non-partisan and nonprofit organization, the Council's role is instrumental on many levels."

Energy Partnership Talks Continue

Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis met with the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources, Mr. Frank Fannon, to discuss the current energy partnership between Libya and the United States. Ambassador Bughaighis provided insight on the situation in Libya and discussed with Mr. Fannon the possibility of expanding the bilateral partnership in specific sectors.



Ambassador Bughaighis Hosts Meridian Function

On October 25, 2019, Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis hosted a Meridian International Center pre-ball dinner in observance of the 51st Anniversary of the Meridian Ball. This function has historically brought together leaders from diplomatic, government and business circles to advance global leadership and diplomacy.

One of the highlights of the mission of the Meridian International Center is to reinforce and strengthen U.S. engagement with the world through cultural exchange. It also provides a safe space and neutral platform for global leaders to initiate constructive collaboration and cultural exchange.

The function was well attended by leaders from many influential communities. In her remarks, Ambassador Bughaighis stressed the importance of mutual understanding: "Cultural and public diplomacy are key factors in bringing together communities and countries while allowing leaders to have cultural awareness in order to foster change." Outreach events such as this one, stressed Ambassador Bughaighis, are essential for bringing communities together to foster change and international collaboration.



Heritage Foundation Celebrates Arab Ambassadors

Dr. Jay A. Parker, President of the Heritage Foundation, hosted a function for Arab ambassadors in Washington, D.C. which Ambassador Bughaighis participated in. Participants discussed security and economic concerns, challenges and opportunities in the region and the shared interests between Arab nations and the United States.





Libya and U.S. Commemorate Second Phase of Stevens Initiative

On October 16, 2019, the Embassy of the State of Libya hosted an event to commemorate the second phase of the Stevens Initiative in Libya. The event was hosted at the Libyan Embassy and was attended by Marie Royce, Assistant Secretary of State, Dr. Anne Stevens, sister of the late Ambassador Christopher J. Stevens, Mr. Elliot Gerson, Executive Vice President of the Aspen Institute and Mr. Mohamed Abdel-Kader, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute.

The Stevens Initiative connects young people through virtual exchange programming, creating respectful cross-cultural experiences whereby young people are provided with the opportunity to improve their language skills,

career building, and vocational skillsets. More importantly, the Stevens Initiative aims to deepen students' ability to engage with others.

Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis provided her remarks regarding this significant milestone and encouraged Libyan students to take part in this initiative.

"I would like to encourage young Libyans to engage in this worthwhile program. This opportunity is a chance for young people to expand their horizons, contribute to the welfare of their societies and become unique citizens in this world," said, Ambassador Bughaighis. Assistant Secretary Marie Royce went on to emphasize the importance of solidifying this exceptional exchange between Libyan and

U.S. students.

The Stevens Initiative was spearheaded by the Stevens family to develop mutual understanding between nations by building bridges between the U.S. and other countries. It is funded by the State Department and administered by the Aspen Institute.



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