



THE EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF LIBYA

1460 Dahlia St NW, Washington, DC 20012 | Phone: 202-944-9601-5 | www.embassyoflibyadc.org

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Embassy Bulletin

Winter 2020 - 2021

Government of Libyan National Unity Confirmed

On 15 March 2021, the Libyan House of Representatives confirmed all cabinet members of the Government of Libyan National Unity (GNU). On this historic day, the entirety of Libya was unified under a single, national authority, setting the stage for the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for 24 December



2021, Libya's 70th Independence Day.

With the successful confirmation of the new Presidency Council in the Supreme Court and new cabinet members in the House of Representatives, five women have been selected to serve in the cabinet as the heads of their respective, sovereign ministries.

This marks the first time Libya has witnessed this number of women in leadership positions, noting Libya's first female minister of foreign affairs, Mrs. Najla El-Mangoush. As a major turning point for the nation, the formation of the GNU comes with great ambition, with we, as Libyans, being commended in our drive toward a unified, civil democracy.

Secretary of State Blinken Conducts Call with Prime Minister Dabaiba



Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken spoke with Libyan Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dabaiba on 22 March 2021, where he welcomed the establishment of the new Government of National Unity. In their call, Secretary Blinken and Prime Minister Dabaiba emphasized the importance of ending the conflict through an inclusive political process, providing essential public services, and ensuring free, fair, and credible elections on 24 December 2021. The secretary and the prime minister also stressed the

the need for full implementation of the ceasefire agreement signed on 23 October 2020, including the removal of all foreign forces and mercenaries from Libya without delay.



Libya Celebrates 10th Anniversary of the Libyan Revolution

On 17 February 2011, the Libyan Revolution, also known as the “17th February Revolution,” changed Libya’s political trajectory from a dictatorship toward the goal of a democratic state. Symbolizing hope for the future of the nation, the 2011 revolution marks its tenth anniversary this year, with celebrations taking place across Libya.

With the Libyan people striving for the establishment of a unified civil democratic state, the largest threat to this goal continues to be negative foreign interference. However, with parliamentary and presidential elections scheduled for the end of 2021, the anniversary of the 17th of February Revolution highlights the original goal of democracy, of which the Libyan people have been striving for since 2011.

Ambassador Continues Engagement with 117th Congress



Ambassador Bughaighis met with Congressman Gregory Meeks, the recently-elected chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

As part of her continuous engagement with members of Congress, Ambassador Bughaighis conducted a series of virtual meetings with House and Senate committee and subcommittee leaders, along with other members of Congress, updating them on

recent developments in Libya. In these meetings, the ambassador stressed the need for continued U.S. engagement, as this is crucial for the Libyan people’s drive toward the establishment of a civil, democratic state and economic cooperation.

U.S. Government Agencies Express Support for Libyan Stability



In a series of separate meetings with Ambassador Bughaighis and members of the Embassy’s political staff, various U.S. government agencies and members of the Biden Administration expressed support for Libyan stability, noting the monumental steps taken by Libyans to secure a new unity government. Support by these various government agencies is crucial for the Libyan people’s drive toward democracy, national reconciliation, economic cooperation, and combating COVID-19.

Libya Enterprise, U.S. Small Business Administration, and USAID Discuss Joint Cooperation



Within the framework of continuing the joint, bilateral economic cooperation between the State of Libya and the United States, Ambassador Bughaighis held a meeting that included Michele Schimpp, Deputy Associate Administrator for the Office of International Trade of the Small Business Administration (SBA), and Dr. Abdalnasr Abouzkeh, Managing Director of Libya Enterprise, with attendance by several officials from the two organizations, as well as a representative of USAID in Libya.

Within the discussion, both sides considered ways and mechanisms of cooperation between USAID, SBA, and Libya Enterprise, in addition to prospects for establishing a partnership aimed at capacity building by means of providing consultation to Libya Enterprise. Additionally, all parties discussed the possibility of benefiting from the expertise of the SBA in a way that would contribute to achieving a jumpstart for small projects in Libya and enhancing their contributions to economic development.

Ambassador Participates in Joint U.S. HOR - African Diplomatic Corps Event

On 28 January 2021, Ambassador Bughaighis virtually participated in the event titled “The Future of U.S.-Africa Policy Relations,” which was hosted by the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights - part of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

In the event, the speakers addressed ways of strengthening U.S.-African relations, placing an importance on shared interests and history, in addition to fostering partnerships in trade, development, and educational exchange. With African issues being a critical part of the Committee’s agenda for the new 117th Congress, developing U.S.-African bilateral and multilateral relations will continue to strengthen cooperation in all fields.

Ambassador Conducts Exchange with Members of Brookings Institution

In a series of interactive exchanges with members of the Brookings Institution’s Center for Middle East Policy, Ambassador Bughaighis presented updates on recent developments in Libya, highlighting positive political events and security measures taking place in the country. Furthermore, she noted the challenges ahead in solidifying stability in Libya and stressed the need for further U.S. engagement to support Libya’s long term goals of democracy, security, and prosperity. In turn, members of the Center exchanged insights on how the United States can further support Libya, as institutions like Brookings play an important role in informing decision makers in their policy toward Libya.

Ambassador Speaks in USIP Event on COVID-19 and Cooperation



On March 4th, Ambassador Bughaighis participated in an event hosted by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) titled, “COVID-19 and Cooperation in Libya: Moving Past Conflict and the Pandemic.” In the event, the Ambassador gave the keynote address, highlighting the cooperation and progress made by Libyans throughout the conflict, pandemic, and Libya’s various tracks.

In addition to the Ambassador’s address, the event featured various Libyan civil society leaders from the Moomken Organization and Tanmia 360, including insights from a member of the World Food Programme (WFP). Cooperation and coordination between the Libyan government and civil society organizations are critical for effective public health policy during health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ambassador Speaks at 25th Annual Women Ambassadors Conference

25TH ANNUAL
WOMEN AMBASSADORS CONFERENCE



DIPLOMACY IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

On 25 March 2021, Ambassador Bughaighis spoke in the virtual 25th Annual Women Ambassadors Conference, hosted by Howard University and the Women Ambassadors Foundation, headed by Dr. Marilyn Sephcole. Under the theme of “Diplomacy in Times of Pandemic,” the panelists included women ambassadors from around the globe, who spoke about the challenges that they have faced during the past year, in addition to their personal experiences as women diplomats in Washington, DC.

In her speech, Ambassador Bughaighis highlighted the positive developments taking place in Libya, with the recent confirmation of the Government of Libyan National Unity and the selection of five women to serve in leadership positions in the new government, pointing in particular to Libya’s first female minister of foreign affairs, Najla El-Man-goush.

Ambassador Interviewed by Middle East Policy Council



As part of the Middle East Policy Council’s initiative to honor women in foreign policy during Women’s

History Month (March), Ambassador Bughaighis was interviewed by MEPC Director Bassima Alghussein. Within the interview, Ambassador Bughaighis was asked about her personal experience as ambassador of Libya to the United States, along with her other accomplishments in various other ministries. Highlighting the ambassador’s service to the State of Libya in foreign policy during the country’s recent, historical transition period gives testament to the nation’s path towards further inclusivity, optimism, and hope.

Embassy Staff Partake in ‘Embassy Day of Service’



As part of a new tradition titled “Embassy Day of Service,” Embassy staff members volunteered their time at the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) in Washington, DC. The Embassy is committed to making this “day of service” an annual event, where members can give back to the local community and interact with those whose lives are impacted by poverty, illness, or other related issues. Embassy staff helped CAFB put together boxes for an assembly line, where other volunteers sorted food and placed them in the boxes for later distribution.



Libyan Air Ambulance Receives New Aircraft and Concludes Training

On 14 December 2020, the Libyan Air Ambulance, accompanied by Embassy staff, received a new Cessna Citation 680 Latitude ambulance. Embassy staff also participated in the conclusion ceremony for the training of the Libya Air Ambulance crew members. Captain Fathi Naji, Director General of the Air Ambulance, extended his appreciation to Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis who greatly contributed to overcoming certain difficulties and provided necessary support to the Air Ambulance team.

Deputy Chief of Mission Participates in African Diplomatic Corps Meeting



On 31 March 2021, Deputy Chief of Mission Faisal Elshaari participated in this month's African Diplomatic Corps meeting. Within the virtual gathering, heads of mission and their deputies from African embassies were briefed on various related and shared issues, as well as engaging in discussion on U.S.-African relations, economic development, human and sustainable develop-

ment, and public affairs. Additionally, all discussed preparations for Africa Day celebrations, which are set to take place in May.

As a North African nation, staying up-to-date on African affairs is critical to maintaining Libyan security, in addition to forming and strengthening partnerships across areas of continental interest.