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## Libya on the path towards elections and economic revival

by Helene Rang



Second Berlin Conference on Libya on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

Libya has experienced challenging circumstances in recent years. In a continued effort to find a political solution in the country, the UN Support Mission in Libya – established in September 2011 – launched the Berlin Process together with the German government in 2019, which aimed to reach an agreement among intervening states on a political solution. Since Germany had not participated in the intra-Libyan affairs, the German government was able to assume a role as mediator.

The first long-planned Berlin Conference on Libya was held in January 2020, attended by representatives of the respective parties involved in Libya. From Tripoli came the head of the internationally recognised government, H.E. Fayez al-Sarraj, while General Khalifa Haftar also agreed to attend after a meeting in Benghazi with H.E. Heiko Maas, German Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs. The parties involved agreed that there must be a political solution to the problems in Libya and reaffirmed support for the peace efforts of then UN Special Envoy

H.E. Ghassan Salamé, emphasising a commitment to the "sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Libya".

With the Second Berlin Conference – announced by H.E. Heiko Maas and H.E. António Guterres on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 and held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 – Germany continued its support for the long-term stabilisation of the country. It was the first time that the Libyan transitional government had been represented at such an international event, and the conference was also attended by previous participating states. Ahead of national elections set for December 2021, it took stock of the latest developments in the country, featuring discussion of the progress made since the original Berlin Conference as well as the next steps necessary for sustainable stabilisation. A primary focus was on preparing for the upcoming elections.

With the summit, Germany took on a mediating role and generated a moment of optimism. The situation in Libya has improved significantly

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