



[Berlin Conference on Libya Results in an Arms Embargo Agreement](#)

Following negotiations in Moscow last week regarding the Libyan conflict, stakeholders of the Berlin Conference on Libya reached an agreement to respect a U.N.-imposed arms embargo in order to prevent continued foreign interference. The Berlin conference marks the latest diplomatic attempt to resolve the ongoing conflict. World leaders seeking a lasting ceasefire in Libya also agreed to impose sanctions on any party which breaks the arms embargo and are considering sending a multinational force to the North African country. Representatives from twelve countries, in addition to the United Nations and other multilateral organizations, took part in the conference while the leaders from Libya's two warring parties attended but did not participate. Libya currently has two rival administrations: the U.N.-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) and one allied with the Libyan National Army.

At the invitation of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, representatives from a multitude of key stakeholders gathered in Berlin to discuss ways to alleviate the Libyan conflict. The full list of conference participants was as follows: Algeria, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Turkey, the Republic of the Congo, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, and the League of Arab States. As a part of the agreement brokered, the participants promised to end all foreign interference (through various means such as weaponry, troops, and financing) in the armed conflict, in an effort to make preparations for a U.N.-sponsored peace process. The U.N. peace plan envisions three streams of discussions to build on a permanent ceasefire – political, economic, and military – and to help address questions regarding governance and the management of public finances.

Libya has been plagued by civil war and instability since the 2011 revolution that toppled former dictator Muammer Gaddafi. In official terms, the country is ruled over by the GNA which is based in the capital city of Tripoli and is headed by Prime Minister Fayez Al-Sarraj. However, the regime faces opposition from General Khalifa Haftar and his Libyan National Army, which controls much of the country's eastern and southern regions. Earlier this month, the two warring sides agreed to a ceasefire, but Haftar dramatically departed those talks in Moscow before signing the formalized agreement with Al-Sarraj. At the Berlin conference, both Haftar and Al-Sarraj attended but did not participate. The two men agreed to nominate five members each to a so-called military committee that will be tasked with establishing a lasting ceasefire. U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres has stated that the first meeting of the committee will take place in Geneva, Switzerland over the coming days.

Foreign interference is at the heart of the problem in the Libyan conflict, and as such, it was rightfully highlighted as one of the main focal points of the Berlin conference. Both warring factions have come to rely heavily on diplomatic and military backing from abroad, and many observers contend that the conflict has raged on in large part due to this external intervention. The impact of this conference remains to be seen; however, it is an important step in highlighting a major factor which has exacerbated the issue.