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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,**
**political, economic, social and cultural rights,**
**including the right to development**

## Written statement* submitted by Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés (OIPMA), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[01 February 2020]

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* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

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## Muslim Brotherhood influence in repositioning of terrorist groups in Libya threatens security, peace, stability and development of Least Developed Countries in Africa

The influence being exerted by the Muslim Brotherhood in Libya has established a platform for the escalation of flow and repositioning of terrorist groups such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda, in neighboring LDCs. The emerging picture is one of increasing danger in the use of Libya as a safe and open haven for coordination of activities by extremist groups in border areas from the Chad, northern part of Mali, the Niger, the Sudan, Mauritania as far as Cameroon, all of which are severely threatening the security, peace, stability, human rights and opportunities to pursue sustainable development by theses LDCs.

The number of LDCs in Africa with jihadi organizations has doubled, while attacks have jumped by 300%. This increase is attributable to increased funding of such groups channeled through the Muslim Brotherhood. Currently, the presence of ISIS, Al Qaeda and Boko Haram network has greatly expanded in various LDCs in Africa, namely Chad,  the Niger, Mali, Mauritania, Cameroon, the Sudan and Burkina Faso .

In his report to the Security Council in August 2019 (S / 2019/682), the United Nations Secretary-General mentioned that ISIS recorded a significant increase in the number of attacks against the Libyan National Army in 2019.

The United Nations Secretary-General in 2019 reported that the number of fighters in the ranks of ISIS in Libya   was between 500 and 700 fighters, including Libyan and foreign nationals. He stressed that the Libyan National Army forces in the south was working to dismantle ISIS and Al Qaeda cells. The Security Council noted existence of a Boko Haram –ISIS alliance, linked to Al Qaeda in North Africa.

The United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) in its October 2017 report on existing alliances between ISIS and the various branches of al-Qaeda in Libya  and the Sahel region, predicted that "within five years, these groups will have established control over the lands in northern part of the Republic of Mali, and…cooperative relations with rebel groups in the Republic of Mali"

Participants at the Berlin Conference on Libya held January 19, 2020 concluded that the conflict in Libya, has allowed Al-Qaeda and ISIS organizations to both flourish through conduct of operations in Libya and in neighboring countries. They called for implementation of Security Council Resolution 2368, which bans funding, recruitment and training of ISIS and Al Qaeda activities.

According to several reports, al-Qaeda and ISIS militants have been transferred from Idlib Governorate in the Syrian Arab Republic through Istanbul in Turkey toLibya has been organized and still going on by cooperation between Muslim Brotherhood-controlled associations with the involvement of Turkey and Qatar, as well as other transfer of militants groups from Africa including Boko Haram militants and other armed groups from neighboring countries.

According to multiple sources, Qatar, since 2011, is covertly providing logistic and financial support to these terrorist groups through its association with the Muslim Brotherhood. A CIA report in 2018, listed Tawhid and Jihad Movement, the Liberation Movement of Azoud, Ansar al-Din, Ansar al-Sharia and Al Qaeda in the Sahel region, as the 5 key terrorist movements heavily funded by Qatar. In addition, Qatar is funding the terrorist "Tuareg Movement" group in the Mali and other Al Qaeda-affiliated groups in several other African countries .

The role of Turkey is complex and somewhat contradictory. The President of Turkey having, on the one hand, stated on 24 January, 2020, at a meeting held at the new campus of the German University in Istanbul, attended by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, that, "If the truce in the State of Libya, is not achieved soon, the chaos will affect the entire Mediterranean basin. If we do not want mercenaries and terrorist organizations to emerge…"

On the other hand, verifiable sources have reported airlifting by Turkey of some 3600 jihadists from Syria through Turkey to Libya. A factor which undoubtedly complicates the mission of the UN Secretary General's envoy to Libya.

Other reports also confirmed the recruitments of Syrian-based jihadists by Turkey and transfer from Idlib to Tripoli, as mercenaries, to fight Libya's National Army. A report published by American journalist, Middle East researcher and expert on Libyan politics, Frederic Wehrey, in the New York Review of Books,  documented from Syrian militiamen interviewed, that their recruitment for service in Libya by the government Turkey , came with promises of a generous monthly salary (reportedly, $2,000 a month) and offers of Turkish citizenship.

In order to ensure elimination of influences from external and internal terrorist groups in Libya, which threaten its peace, stability, human rights, development and ultimately of LDCs in Africa, Organisation Internationale Pour Les Pays Les Moins Avancés (OIPMA):

- Recommends that the Human Rights Council to admonish Turkey intervention in Libya and to apply the pressure on Turkey and Qatar to cease all provision of logistic and financial support to all extremist and terrorist groups in Libya and elsewhere.

- Urges the UN Secretary General, the United Nations Security Council and other key stakeholders, to pursue an effective strategy to resolve the political crisis and conflict in Libya. On the other, ensure the eradication of violent and extremist terrorist organizations in Libya and establish peace and stability in the region.

- Call upon the international community to work with the "African Joint Forces" engaged in the fight against terrorism in LDCs in Africa, in order to ensure a peaceful and prosperous future for those currently being recruited, particularly the youth, into the conflict.

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