

**Opening remarks of the Assistant Secretary-General, UN Resident and
Humanitarian Coordinator for Libya (ASG/RC/HC), Ms. Georgette Gagnon,
at Workshop on the legal framework & structure of the Libyan High
National Commission for Reconciliation
Tripoli, 31 May 2021**

Excellencies, esteemed colleagues.

On behalf of the United Nations in Libya, I thank you for the opportunity to offer remarks at the opening of this important opening workshop particularly in the presence of their excellencies, the vice Presidents of the Presidency Council, his excellency Mr. Abdallah Al Lafi and his excellency Mr Moussa Al Kouni. Their presence is as a testament to the importance of this workshop which the United Nations is honoured to contribute to.

The United Nations welcomes the announcement of President Menfi on 5 April to establish a High National Reconciliation Commission to address past human rights violations and promote national reconciliation based on justice and the rule of law. This is in line with the mandate envisioned under the Roadmap of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF).

We highlight and affirm the participation of many esteemed experts in this discussion, along with the representatives of civil society, human rights organisations and Libya's cultural components – a clear demonstration of the Presidency Council's commitment to promoting an inclusive process –which the United Nations very much welcomes and supports.

I also highlight the UN's position on the imperative that the national reconciliation process be Libyan-led, participatory, rights-based and centred around the rights and needs of the many victims of human rights violations across Libya.

We recognize the importance of this initiative launched by the Presidency Council - as essential for laying the groundwork for a longer-term national reconciliation process, but equally and as importantly, as needed to promote unity and social cohesion ahead of the December elections, as highlighted by the UN Security Council in its resolution [UNSCR 2570 (2021)] of 16 April.

Just as the legal framework and conducive conditions for elections require concerted national efforts, advancing national reconciliation should also promote a ‘whole Government’ approach. We welcome the attendance in these discussions of key Government ministers and ministries together with some of the country’s most distinguished academics and experts.

I also acknowledge the United Nations’ close cooperation and partnership with the African Union (pleased to see that her excellency Ambassador Wahida has joined this important forum virtually) – and stress the many lessons learned and experiences the African Union can share, as well as the UN/AU shared vision of a process that is grounded in key principles of justice and human rights which are critical to ensure long-term peace and stability.

We wish the Presidency Council every success in the launch of the series of workshops which can help lay the foundations for a comprehensive, inclusive, rights-based national reconciliation process.

And we reiterate the UN’s full support to this Libyan-led process.

Thank you.