



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

PRESS RELEASE

In a pioneering statement, women activists from Libya reveal a position on the country's future

Tunis, 20 January 2015 – A group of 35 Libyan women activists from diverse backgrounds representing all regions of Libya agreed, for the first time in the context of the Libyan conflict, on a joint statement affirming their demands for a peaceful, democratic and unified Libya (attached below).

The statement came at the conclusion of a 2-days (19-20 January 2015) workshop convened in the Tunisian capital, Tunis which discussed issues related to Libya's security and peace in support of the Libyan Political Dialogue in Geneva. Participating women activists aligned their diverse perspectives in an effort to ensure that their collective voices for peace are well heard at the national, regional and international levels.

The women activists acknowledged that the current dialogue process represents “a last opportunity” to resolve many of the problems that Libya faces today and to bring peace to the country.

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women) and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) collaborated to convene and facilitate this meeting with support from the European Union (EU) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

###

For further information, please contact:

Magda El-Senousi, Chief Women's Empowerment Section, UNSMIL
e-mail: elsanousim@un.org mobile: +216 50 776 469

Adam Styp-Rekowski, Project Manager, Assistance to Building a Constitution project
e-mail: adam.styp-rekowski@undp.org mobile: +216 52 210 780

Sally El-Mahdy, Policy Advisor Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS), UN-Women
e-mail: sally.elmahdy@unwomen.org mobile: +20 10 2663 0114

Samia Mahgoub, IFES Country Director Libya
e-mail: smahgoub@ifes.org mobile: +216 28 018 477

LIBYAN WOMEN FOR PEACE

Tunis 19-20 January 2015

Concluding Statement

We are a group of Libyan women who support peace, dialogues and social stability for the building of a democratic Libya. We seize the historic opportunity of the National Libyan Dialogue in Geneva to direct the attention of Libyan men and women, and the entire world to the dialogue process as a last opportunity to bring our homeland out of its current crisis and achieve peace in Libya.

Cognizant of threats to Libya's unity, the security of her citizens and the integrity of her natural resources;

Appreciating the role that Libyan women have played in the revolution of 17 February and in establishing its principles;

Emphasizing that women bear the most dire impacts of armed conflict including through displacement, forced migration and violence; and

Building on established principles of citizenship and women's participation as full partners in fostering peace and building Libya as a democratic state—a state that respects law and human rights and has strong institutions

We demand the following:

1. Observance of an immediate ceasefire, achievement of progress on the National Dialogue, peace process and improvement of the humanitarian situation.
2. Respect by all parties of the principles of International Humanitarian Law, in order to protect and alleviate the suffering of victims of the armed conflict especially women and children.
3. Articulation of strategies to apply the confidence measures agreed upon in the first round of the Dialogue and putting in place the mechanisms and executive procedures necessary for their implementation at all levels.
4. Commitment of all parties to ensure the full participation of women in dialogue processes to resolve the conflict, rebuilding efforts and management of the transitional period and beyond, in compliance with Security Council resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106 and 2122, which call for the representation of women at all levels of decision making and crisis management, and protecting them during periods of conflict. As well, to build capacities of civil society women activists in the areas of negotiation, peace building and the implementation of confidence building measures.
5. Taking all necessary measures to expedite the return of internally and externally displaced women and men and the release of all women and men detained on no legal grounds.
6. Enacting the laws and measures necessary to launch a robust process of transitional justice to promote reconciliation and maintain social peace—a process that fully addresses past violations against women.
7. Employing media and religious discourses to ensure that reconciliation efforts are not undermined, the values of tolerance, national unity, and non-discrimination are protected and efforts to stop violence against women and emphasize their role in peace making and facilitating dialogue are strengthened.
8. The Leagues of Arab States mobilizes its Member States to support the national Libyan dialogue, and to ensure the participation of women and to improve their efforts to support the dialogue, transitional justice and reconciliation.
9. The Peace and Security Council of the African Union supports the Libyan peace and dialogue processes.
10. The Arab Maghreb Union supports the Libyan peace and dialogue processes in line with the Unions core principle to support peace in the Maghreb countries.