

# **UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN LIBYA (UNSMIL)**

## **Press Release**

Sirte, 24 October 2011: The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Georg Charpentier was in Sirte today, opening the way for the joint technical assessment missions to that city and to Bani Walid that will be completed in the next two days.

Technical assessment missions to Sirte and Bani Walid follow an extensive response planning exercise to preposition humanitarian relief supplies near to these areas in preparation for the end of fighting. These stocks are now being utilized to provide an immediate response to humanitarian needs, including food, NFIs and potable water.

“Immediate priorities for response include the restoration of electricity and water services, rapid clean-up of explosive remnants of war, as well as the rehabilitation of housing for returning residents,” said Mr. Charpentier.

The Humanitarian Coordinator also expressed his concern for the safe return of civilians to Sirte and the importance of national reconciliation following the end of hostilities.

Mr. Charpentier added, “With the declaration of liberation, Libya has turned a new page in its history. Given the exceptional resilience shown by the Libyan people to meet their emergency needs following the conflict, it is expected that humanitarian operations can be progressively phased out now that the conflict has subsided. The United Nations offers its full support to the Libyan people in building a new future for their country”.