



General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 August 2025
English
Original: Arabic

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Fiftieth session
Geneva 3–14 November 2025

National report submitted in accordance with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21*

Libya

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



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I. General introduction

1. The State of Libya hereby submits its report under the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review mechanism, pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007. The report was prepared in accordance with the revised general guidelines for the preparation of information under the review mechanism.
2. The issue of human rights constitutes a priority for Libya where such rights enjoy great respect and constitute a legal obligation under the national constitutional principles enshrined in the Constitutional Declaration and in national law. This is further undergirded by the teachings of Islamic sharia which preserve and enjoin respect for human dignity and human rights. This approach to human rights was reflected in the final draft of the constitution, which was adopted by the Constituent Assembly and under which human rights stand as an overarching principle governing the action of State authorities and placing the State under an obligation to take account of such rights when formulating policy. As concerns the executive, the Government of National Unity did not fail to seize the opportunity to affirm its own complete adherence to the protection and promotion of human rights values and its rejection of any violation of rights.
3. Libya submitted its previous report in 2021, receiving 285 recommendations during the course of the review cycle. Of those, it fully accepted 181 recommendations and took note of 68. It rejected a total of 36 recommendations on the grounds that they were inconsistent with national legislation and with the principles of Islamic sharia. The competent Libyan authorities have been working to implement the recommendations that were accepted.
4. The present report illustrates the steps taken by the Government of National Unity to protect and promote human rights, including the implementation of the recommendations accepted by Libya during the third cycle of the universal periodic review. The Government has been pursuing this course since it took office in 2021.

II. Methodology for preparing the report

5. The report was prepared by a committee of government experts, which was established under Decree No. 117 of 2025 and which brought together a wide range of representatives from ministries and governmental bodies concerned with human rights, under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. It should be noted that efforts to implement the recommendations accepted following the third cycle of the universal periodic review began as soon as that cycle was over, with the formation of several national committees. A series of meetings was organized with consultants and experts in the field of human rights from various national sectors relevant to issues covered in the report. The entire process went through several phases, namely.

(a) A preparatory phase, in which efforts focused on studying the concluding observations and deciding which agencies were competent to collect data and information.

(b) A data collection phase, during which data and information relevant to the recommendations was collected from the following institutions: The Office of the Public Prosecutor, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the National Economic and Social Development Board, the Media Content Monitoring Authority and the Ministry of Labour and Training.

(c) A drafting and review phase, during which the data and information was collated with due attention to ensure that all the necessary points were covered, followed by a careful rereading of the report to verify the accuracy of the information.

(d) A consultation phase, during which the report was subjected to a participatory process with relevant national stakeholders in order to finalize the content.

6. The committee of experts contacted all the aforementioned institutions, using in-person interviews to gather data and information directly from officials designated by the

institutions themselves. To this end, the committee held regular meetings to learn about the measures being taken in the field of human rights and the progress made by the institutions the officials represented vis-à-vis the recommendations that Libya had accepted and undertaken to implement with a view to preserving and protecting human rights. In this way, the present report reached its final form.

III. Political and constitutional processes and national reconciliation

7. During the reporting period, Libya witnessed several important political events. The Libyan Political Dialogue Forum was held in Geneva in January 2021, which concluded with the agreement of participants on the proposal for a unified executive authority selection mechanism and on a roadmap for holding inclusive and democratic national elections. With the adoption of the outcomes on 10 March 2021, the Government of National Unity has worked to create an appropriate climate for the Libyan people to exercise their right to vote under fair constitutional rules and thus put an end to the transitional phase, promoting efforts towards national reconciliation and encouraging dialogue and settlement. The Government has also supported the work of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission in its efforts to end the armed struggle and change course towards stability and development and it has reaffirmed its commitment to playing its role towards achieving that important goal.

8. In 2014, constitutional processes were overturned, institutions were split, and de facto authorities came to acquire legitimacy in the name of a political balance that did not reflect the popular will. Since then, the failure of successive United Nations and international efforts to address the roots of the crisis has led to the collapse of the electoral process as powerful political forces have systematically obstructed the creation of a constitutional base, hijacked the right of the Libyan people to hold a referendum on the constitution drafted by the Constituent Assembly and hindered all initiatives aimed at holding fair and inclusive elections. At the same time, the organs charged with upholding constitutional order within the framework of the law – first among them the House of Representatives – have become political players and tools in the hands of the de facto forces, which they use to create parallel governments and to apply policies and measures that have ruined the national economy and depleted the treasury.

9. Over recent years, provisional governance, imposed agreements and artificial solutions with no basis in national legitimacy have thrown a long shadow over human rights. The truth is that Libya does not need a new transitional government or a new transitional phase. What it needs is to move away from transitional phases altogether towards constitutional and political stability, following a serious and sustainable path out of the current crisis. This should be based on the will of the Libyan people and not imposed from above by international understandings.

10. To hold presidential elections in the absence of agreed constitutional rules would be to take a great risk that might send the country back to its zero-sum conflict. In fact, the first step towards ending the political crisis lies in holding legislative elections in order to restore legitimacy to the legislature, enabling all political parties to participate. This would also respond to the Libyan people's aspiration to choose their own legislature and executive and create the legal basis for the launch of comprehensive constitutional and institutional reform, either by adopting the constitution drafted in 2017 or by forming a national commission that enjoys wide confidence and is charged with drafting new agreed constitutional rules. In this context, the Government of National Unity has emphasized its commitment to providing a safe and secure administrative environment in which to hold elections. The Government is not striving to survive or to extend its own mandate but to restore political self-determination to the Libyan people and end the transitional phase.

IV. Legislative framework, policies and strategies related to human rights

11. Human rights protection is enshrined in the national constitutional and legal framework. The interim Constitutional Declaration of 2011 envisaged a number of fundamental rights and freedoms, while the draft constitution finalized by the Constituent Assembly includes an entire chapter on public rights and freedoms and envisions the creation of several independent constitutional bodies to oversee the protection and promotion of human rights. These include the Constitutional Court, the National Council for Human Rights, the National Council for the Protection of Cultural and Linguistic Heritage and the Sustainable Development Authority.

12. Libya is a party to most international and regional human rights treaties, and national legislation is consistent with the country's obligations under international human rights law. According to constitutional principles, as upheld by rulings of the Supreme Court, international human rights treaties are part of national legislation, ranking below the Constitution and above ordinary law.

A. Legislative framework

13. As a result of years of political division in Libya and of the impact of successive transitional stages have had on the process of updating national legislation, the Government of National Unity has faced great challenges in its efforts to strengthen the legislative framework protecting human rights. Despite that, the Government has been drafting several bills that are intended to fill a legislative void, strengthen the human rights protection framework and activate the transitional justice process. These bills – which are still under consideration by the legislature pending their adoption – include the following:

- (a) A draft law to regulate the work of civil society organizations
- (b) A draft law to combat violence against women
- (c) A draft law to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism
- (d) A draft law to combat trafficking in persons
- (e) A draft law on national reconciliation
- (f) A law to criminalize the recruitment of child soldiers drafted by the Ministry of Defence in the Government of National Unity, accompanied by a proposal to amend the age of recruitment in the General Mobilization Act and the Military Service Act from 17 to 18.

14. The Government of National Unity has been seeking to fill the legislative vacuum by issuing a number of decrees related to human rights. These include Decree No. 902 of 2022 regarding the children of Libyan women married to non-Libyan men, Decree No. 312 of 2023 regarding the formation of a committee to support and regulate the work of civil society organizations and Decree No. 288 of 2023 regarding the formation of a standing committee to regulate and support local and international organizations. The Ministry of Defence of the Government of National Unity is working to bring military law into line with international humanitarian law.

B. Human rights-related policies and strategies

15. The Government of National Unity has developed and implemented several programmes aimed at fulfilling the country's commitment to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, most notably the following:

- (a) A national social protection strategy. This is a comprehensive strategy intended to consolidate the efforts being made to ensure that beneficiaries enjoy prompt access to services such as social assistance, insurance and the labour market.

(b) A national strategy to address and combat the spread of psychotropic substances. The strategy embraces the legal, security, social, psychological and health dimensions of this phenomenon and it includes a national plan of action to combat supply and to reduce the demand for such substances.

(c) A national strategy for reforming the business environment. The initiative includes proposals for amendments to the Business Activities Act regarding limited liability companies.

(d) A strategy for reforming and developing the transport sector, which aims to develop basic mobility services for citizens inside and outside the country.

(e) A strategy to reform and develop urban planning. The aim of the strategy is to assess the current situation of urban planning, formulate a development plan, draft a new law on urban planning and create an urban planning manual.

(f) A food security strategy. This focuses on the delivery, availability, utilization and stability of food supplies with a view to achieving safe and sustainable food security.

(g) A water security strategy. The strategy involves developing and testing a means to monitor and assess hydric resources; building the capacities of water experts, farmers and agriculturalists; gathering and updating fundamental data on the country's true hydric potential; studying the contribution of non-conventional water resources; and strengthening water governance and management processes.

(h) A national strategy for youth empowerment. The goal of this initiative is to stimulate socioeconomic development by empowering the young, provide openings for their effective participation in economic, social and political life and highlight the positive efforts young persons make towards development at the local and national levels. The main objectives of the strategy include formulating appropriate education and training policies, creating suitable job opportunities and enhancing young people's role in decision-making.

(i) A national strategy for monitoring performance and combating corruption (2025–2030).

(j) A national educational reform strategy.

(k) A national strategy for the development of intellectual property.

(l) Work to develop a national strategy on how to handle disasters and catastrophes.

V. Cooperation with United Nations mechanisms

16. Moved by a desire to end impunity and to bring justice to victims, in 2019 Libya requested the Human Rights Council to create a fact-finding mission on Libya to monitor and document human rights violations. The Independent Fact-Finding Mission was duly established under Human Rights Council resolution 43/39, under agenda item 10, and its mandate was subsequently extended on more than one occasion. For its part, the Government of National Unity has fulfilled all its obligations towards the Mission, showing full cooperation, smoothing the obstacles in its path and facilitating its visits to the field. The Mission, in fact, conducted 13 field visits during which it held upwards of 400 interviews, mostly with witnesses and victims. This enabled it to complete its work and submit its final report within the stipulated period.

17. In a step reflecting its serious desire to improve the situation of human rights in Libya and its commitment to ongoing cooperation with international human rights protection mechanisms, the Government of National Unity submitted – through the Group of African States – a draft resolution regarding the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building, which the Human Rights Council adopted as resolution 52/41. In the resolution, the Council calls upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to consult closely with the Libyan authorities and to enhance the capacity of the judiciary to protect human rights, investigate and prosecute violations, provide redress to victims and combat impunity. The Council subsequently renewed its commitment

to technical assistance and capacity-building under resolution 56/22. For its part, the Government of National Unity has sought to implement these resolutions by organizing workshops and training programmes in cooperation with OHCHR and with the Human Rights and Rule of Law Division of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya.

18. Libya is also determined to cooperate with the special procedures mechanism of the Human Rights Council. In that connection, in December 2022, the Government of National Unity hosted an official visit by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, during which she held meetings with officials and met with a number of civil society organizations. In addition to this, members of the legislature and the executive as well as representatives from 14 Libyan non-governmental organisations (NGOs) participated in a round table on freedom of association in Libya. The meeting, organized by the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, was held in Geneva on 6 and 7 February 2024.

VI. Civil and political rights

19. National law guarantees the right to life and liberty, and to protection against torture, and it places an obligation on law enforcement officials and the judiciary to investigate human rights violations. According to Chapter 2 of the draft constitution of Libya, all persons have the right to life and safety, and the State is to take the measures necessary to protect that right. The right to physical integrity, respect for human dignity and protection against torture, violence and cruel treatment are likewise guaranteed, and private dwellings may not be entered or searched save in cases of necessity or of flagrante delicto.

20. Libya guarantees freedom of individual and collective expression, as stipulated in the Constitutional Declaration of 2011 as well as in articles 37 and 38 of the 2017 draft constitution. This is considered to be a fundamental human right, one that allows individuals to express their ideas and opinions freely and without fear of punishment or censorship and that plays a major role in supporting democracy and responsible dialogue without infringing on the rights of others or encouraging violence and hate.

A. Right to freedom from and protection against torture and inhumane treatment

21. The Government of National Unity has rolled out a body of measures, the most significant of which are listed below, to implement the recommendations concerning protection for the human rights of persons in detention and the improvement of prisons and detention facilities:

(a) Decree No. 749 of 2021 of the Minister of the Interior establishing a human rights office, as amended by Decree No. 1080 of 2023. According to the Decree, the office has a mandate to receive complaints and reports of alleged human rights violations against detainees and prisoners. It is also responsible for referring those matters to the competent authorities and for proposing measures to promote and protect human rights in all ministerial bodies as well as inside shelters and administrative detention centres. Libya guarantees freedom of individual and collective expression, as stipulated in the Constitutional Declaration of 2011.

(b) Circular No. 1 of 2021 of the Minister of the Interior regarding the obligation to observe human rights values and principles during arrest and detention.

(c) Decree No. 281 of 2022 of the Minister of the Interior promulgating rules of conduct for the police in their interaction with unlawful migrants. The decree stipulates that migrants are to be treated on a basis of equality and non-discrimination, and it prohibits any kind of torture or inhumane treatment against them.

(d) Circular No. 2 of 2021 of the Minister of the Interior regarding respect for human rights during arrest.

(e) Decree No. 2107 of 2023 of the Minister of the Interior regarding the formation of a standing committee for monitoring and investigation. The committee is responsible for monitoring cases of human rights violations in detention facilities and conducting the necessary inquiries as well as for ensuring that the Ministry's police and security service abide by national law and international and regional human rights treaties and monitoring any violations in that regard. Since it was established, the committee has conducted 18 field visits to security directorates, police stations, migrant shelters and public security departments where it has carried out inspections, held direct meetings, gathered documentation and conducted evaluations. In addition to this, the committee has held awareness-raising sessions with officers and other ranks on legal standards and the treatment of detained persons and migrants, and it has drafted procedural legal guides concerning field visits and the receiving of complaints and reports inside institutions run by the Ministry of the Interior.

22. The Ministry of Defence closely oversees the military prisons it runs thanks to field visits by the Office of the Military Prosecutor and by the Ministry's own human rights and international humanitarian law office. The Military Prosecutor has also formed a committee to monitor the situation of detainees.

23. As part of efforts by the Office of the Public Prosecution to combat arbitrary detention and ensure respect for proper legal procedure, the Public Prosecutor issued Decree No. 107 of 2021 redefining the structure and operational competencies of the divisions inside the Prosecution Office. The Decree stipulates that the division for inspecting law enforcement agencies is to be responsible for examining complaints and reports of infringements against rights and freedoms committed by law enforcement personnel. The same division is also to ensure that all prisons and detention facilities are subject to judicial oversight and effective monitoring. At the same time, the human rights division of the Prosecution Office is tasked with investigating human rights violations amounting to summary execution or arbitrary detention that take place outside official prisons and detention facilities, as well as other violations of national and international human rights standards.

24. Libya is greatly concerned to discover the fate of persons who have gone missing in the wake of past conflicts. In that connection, the State has established an administratively and financially independent agency to lead the way in the search for and identification of missing persons in Libya and to become regional point of reference able to provide its services, both inside the country and abroad. The body, which was established under Presidency Council Decree No. 92 of 2020, has recorded 7,125 missing person cases and conducted 5,923 DNA tests for families who have lost their loved ones. In this way, 600 missing persons were identified over a short period of time thanks to the work of Libyan officials using the latest international laboratory technology. These efforts have garnered praise from international missing persons organizations.

25. The Presidency Council issued its Decree No. 35 of 2025 concerning the formation of a human rights committee to monitor conditions inside prisons and places of detention, conduct periodic field inspections and identify and review cases of arrests carried out without judicial authorization or without referral to the Office of the Public Prosecution. The committee is also to make recommendations in that regard to the competent authorities while ensuring respect for legal procedures and safeguards for the human rights of inmates and detainees.

26. As concerns the posting of confessions and the revelation of the identity of detained persons via the media and social media platforms by certain security units belonging to the Ministry of the Interior, a circular was issued to security authorities drawing attention to the importance of respecting article 59 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which underscores the confidentiality of investigations and of the outcome of investigations. The circular also makes reference to articles 7 and 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

B. Investigating violations and combating impunity

27. The Office of the Public Prosecutor has taken the following important measures and initiatives to maintain its commitment to protect and promote human rights and freedoms,

uphold the law and follow up on United Nations recommendations, thereby ensuring transparency in its handling of human rights violations:

(a) The Prosecutor General issued Decree No. 201 of 2021 regarding investigations into the crimes committed in Tarhunah. Relatives of the victims of those crimes have filed complaints and reports on 521 cases, of which 182 have been processed and 153 have been found to constitute offences and thus referred to the indictment division. A further 12 cases have been found to constitute lesser offences and referred to the misdemeanour court, while the Office of the Public Prosecution has issued 17 orders to initiate criminal proceedings against several accused persons. A total of 339 cases are still under investigation and 52 persons are being held in custody in connection with those cases. In the wake of the reports received from the people of Tarhunah, arrest warrants have been issued against 111 suspects for crimes such as murder, looting, arbitrary detention and torture committed by the armed group known as “Kaniyat”.

(b) The Prosecutor General issued Decrees No. 338 of 347 of 2023 to form a committee to look into the Derna dam incident of 11 September 2023, investigate the causes leading up to it and bring criminal proceedings against those responsible for the flood which caused 4,540 deaths. The criminal proceedings brought by the Office of the Public Prosecutor led to court convictions that saw 12 accused persons sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from 9 years in prison with the payment of blood money to 27 years. In addition, the tenth, thirteenth and fourteenth defendants were ordered to restore the money they had obtained. Except in some cases where it was not possible to do so, samples were taken from families who had reported missing relatives; the samples were entered into the database of the agency responsible for searching for and identifying missing persons. Also, genetic samples were taken during autopsies of the bodies of the deceased and their DNA was extracted. This process is still underway as the missing persons agency seeks to determine the genetic characteristics of the bodies before burial, under the supervision of the Public Prosecutor’s Office.

C. Freedom of expression and association

28. Between 2021 and 2025, the ranking of Libya on the World Press Freedom Index went up 28 places from 165th place to 137th place.¹ The reasons for this are as follows:

(a) The Head of the Government of National Unity issued Circular No. 8 of 2021 to mark World Press Freedom Day, which falls annually May 3. The Circular sets forth certain directives intended to protect the rights of media workers and journalists. It also enshrines a commitment to protect journalists and to work to restructure media and press institutions so as to increase the participation of civil society organizations. The circular is the only Libyan document that goes into detail about freedom of expression, the right to criticize government and the obligation to protect journalists and prevent them from being targeted or arrested outside the framework of the law.

(b) The Head of the Government of National Unity issued Decree No. 63 of 2021 to institute a prize to reward merit in journalism. The Decree – which is the first of the Libyan State to mention World Press Freedom Day – stipulates that a prize for journalistic merit is to be granted by the Prime Minister on 3 May, which is World Press Freedom Day.

(c) An updated lexicon of hate speech terminology has been drafted, updated and distributed to various media outlets.

(d) Courses and workshops have been held to raise awareness about the ethics of journalism.

29. As concerns the recommendations to promote the rights and protect the person of journalists and media professionals, the Media Content Monitoring Authority held a meeting in Tunis on 3 November 2022 with a number of international and regional organizations to sign a roadmap for the safety of journalists in the Arab region. The signing marked the close of activities to commemorate the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists and the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. On the subject of cooperation with civil society

organizations and the regulation of their activities, it should be noted that Presidency Council Decree No. 289 of 2019 is no longer applicable after a court of summary jurisdiction in the city of Benghazi ruled to suspend its enforcement. That ruling was handed down on 18 July 2022 after two civil society organizations had lodged an appeal against the Decree in June of the same year. Other civil society organizations have cooperated on joint projects with the Media Content Monitoring Authority and the General Press Authority, which have benefited from the expertise those organizations could provide in areas such as freedom of expression and media monitoring. In addition, the Media Content Monitoring Authority has adopted a “code of professional media conduct” which was drafted by independent experts. The principles enshrined in the code are drawn from provisions in the Publications Act No. 76 of 1972, which are consistent with international instruments and with the Constitutional Declaration, from international norms that emerged from a consultation meeting of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) held in 1983 and from a code of professional media conduct drafted by the Libyan Organization for Independent Media. More than 150 journalists from all parts of Libya have signed the new code of conduct, which was adopted by the Government of National Unity in its Decree No. 811 of 2022 regulating private media channels.

VII. Economic, social and cultural rights

30. Libya is continuing to pursue its efforts to uphold economic, social and cultural rights with a view to achieving economic growth and moving from a situation of stagnation to one of growth and prosperity. In October 2021, the Government of National Unity launched its “Return of life” plan, which envisages the roll-out of 4,500 projects with a focus on vital sectors such as health, education, young persons, sport, energy, roads, water networks and infrastructure.

31. Despite an abundance of challenges such as political instability and illegal migration, and the negative impact these have on the economic, social and security situation, the Libyan economy is currently witnessing a remarkable expansion with the expectation that the growth rate will reach 16 per cent by the end of 2025. This forecast is due to the recovery in oil production, which is the country’s main source of revenue. Indeed, oil production increased by 200 per cent between 2021 and 2023, and rose to 1.4 million barrels per day by early 2025. In addition to this, the Government is making efforts to promote economic stability.

A. Social protection and improving standards of living

32. The State has adopted a raft of policies that are underpinned by the principle of social justice. These include policies to raise the minimum pension, to standardize salary scales and to ensure financial provision for wives and children. Average spending on social protection has amounted to 15.5 per cent of all public outlay and to 8.1 per cent of gross domestic product over the past three years. In cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) a national strategy has been drafted aimed at achieving social justice.

33. The Government of National Unity issued its Decree No. 1 of 2021 to improve living conditions for persons drawing the basic pension. The aim is to guarantee the income of vulnerable groups who are reliant on the Social Solidarity Fund, including older persons of both sexes, widows and women who are categorized as persons with disabilities.

34. Act No. 27 of 2013 envisages grants for wives and children under the age of 18 under. Due account is also taken of the payment of delayed grants with the issuance of a law to that effect on 29 April 2021.

35. Decree No. 448 of 2021 includes provisions relating to social security benefits, raising the minimum pension for retirees including, of course, female retirees.

36. With a view to achieving social justice, Decree No. 902 of 2022 includes certain provisions concerning the offspring of Libyan women married to non-Libyan men according to which the children of such women are to be treated as citizens.

37. Within a view to building families that are stable and capable of participating in the development process, Libya has given 50,000 young men and women who married between 12 August and 31 December 2021 a sum of 40,000 dinars (LD) (\$8,850) per couple (equally divided between the man and the woman)

B. Right to health

38. Citizens' right to free healthcare and medical care is guaranteed under Act No. 106 of 1973, as amended by Act No. 8 of 1986. The Government of National Unity has focused a lot of attention on developing healthcare facilities and improving the effectiveness of medical personnel. Indeed, the "Return of life" plan envisages 64 projects to build hospitals, healthcare centres and clinical complexes, with a total capacity of 3,524 beds.

39. In the course of 2024, government spending on the health sector amounted to LD 8,618,522,893,364.

40. An independent oncological agency was founded under Council of Ministers Decree No. 963 of 2022 to diagnose, treat, medicate and find solutions for cancer sufferers, particularly the most vulnerable.

41. A strategy to reform and develop the health system in Libya was rolled out in 2022 with the issuance of a comprehensive national document on healthcare reform and of draft healthcare regulations.

42. A plan was developed in 2022 to improve and evaluate the performance of the institutions responsible for accrediting healthcare centres.

43. A drug safety project launched in 2023 aims to study the situation of the pharmaceutical sector in Libya. Its purpose is to enhance drug safety, improve access to medication, strengthen the local economy, reduce economic dependency, increase controls in the sector and, eventually, propose the creation of a Libyan drug authority.

44. Between 2021 and 2025, Libya made repeated efforts to improve the health sector, particularly in areas such as primary healthcare, vaccinations and school health. In that regard – and despite security and political challenges – a number of strategies and initiatives have been run with local and international support.

45. A body has been set up under Decree No. 164 of 2022 to develop treatments, including support for infertility treatment, and thus localize healthcare inside the country.

46. The Ministry of Health has, for the first time, adopted national primary healthcare policies covering such areas as standardized patient records, job descriptions for medical staff and guides for chronic diseases such as diabetes and asthma, as well as quality indicators for primary healthcare.

47. A total of 198 hospitals and medical centres and 1,249 clinics and primary healthcare units provide reproductive healthcare services that include, at least, a minimum package of services (i.e., pregnancy monitoring, safe childbirth, childcare, vaccinations, post-natal services and family planning).

48. In November 2024, the National Centre for Disease Control launched a national vaccination campaign against polio, measles and rubella, targeting children aged from 1 day to 6 years. In all, 708,700 children vaccinated.

49. The Ministry of Health organized a national workshop in May 2025, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The initiative served to review and implement the Expanded Programme on Immunization and to train healthcare teams on how to evaluate and improve immunization services.

50. A national mental health strategy has been adopted as part of a framework to strengthen the provision of healthcare in that field and to develop a psychological treatment and support system in Libya.

51. The Ministry of Education has worked with the Primary Health Care Foundation and WHO on a campaign entitled “We unite to protect them”. The campaign includes lectures on healthy eating, height and weight measurements for schoolchildren and testing to detect signs of pallor and other physical indicators. The Ministry of Education has also rolled out training programmes for social workers in schools to enhance psychosocial support for students, especially in areas affected by conflict.

52. In August 2024, a vaccination campaign was launched targeting children in the first year of primary school with the specific aim of protecting them against communicable diseases such as measles, mumps and rubella.

C. Right to work

53. Libya guarantees the right to work for all its citizens. The same right is also upheld in article 56 of the draft constitution, which clearly and explicitly stipulates that every citizen has the right to work. For its part, the State seeks to ensure that work can be done in safe and dignified conditions, and to uphold the right to choose the type and conditions of work.

54. The Minister of Labour and Training issued Decree No. 472 of 2024 regarding the formation of a labour affairs advisory committee. The committee is to be charged with the task of proposing and amending labour-related legislation and with submitting proposals to regulate workflows, raise productivity, improve working conditions and supervise training policies. The committee also seeks to regulate relations between workers. The Decree has given effect to article 18 (on labour and recruitment) of Labour Relations Act No. 12 of 2010.

55. The Ministry of Labour and Training has organized a number of activities and initiatives within the framework of its policy to develop strategies, plans and programmes and to build capacity. In that connection, in addition to 3 pre-existing centres, 11 new training centres have been set up in all parts of Libya, especially in remote areas and areas affected by armed conflict.

56. A national rehabilitation and reintegration project being run by the Ministry of Labour was launched under Council of Ministers Decree No. 136 of 2023. Its aim is to promote social and community peace via training and rehabilitation while pursuing sustainable socioeconomic development goals. The intention is to reintegrate young civilians who were implicated in the activities of armed groups and to rehabilitate widows whose husbands were lost in the course of military operations, empowering them economically, enabling them to choose careers that are consistent with their own particular physical, technical and academic skills, and providing psychosocial support services. For its part, the *Muta'alliq* project aims to reform the security sector with the launch of a national strategic plan to develop international cooperation (phases 2 and 3 of the project). More than 250 trainees have been accommodated in the plan, which incorporates two categories (women and persons with disabilities). They receive psychological rehabilitation and vocational training which, in the case of some of the trainees, leads to support of up to LD 30,000 per person for an entrepreneurial scheme and the opening of their own business. The remaining trainees are directed towards jobs in the private sector thanks to employment fairs that have been opened with several companies. Job openings are secured for others by directing them to the operational division of the Ministry of Labour. A total of 132 persons benefited from the training courses in the year 2022/23.

57. The Human Resources Development Fund has launched several programmes in all regions of Libya, providing training and qualifications to some 7,300 jobseekers, including women and persons with disabilities. Under the slogan “We reach you wherever you are”, the Ministry has launched the “Your future career” initiative, for which it supplied eight mobile units each equipped with five technical systems which it used to hold training workshops in remote areas.

58. One of a number of initiatives adopted by the Ministry of Labour and Training was an open day for employment for students who are about to graduate or have already done so. The Open Day aimed to disseminate a culture of employment, to support the national economy and to expand the employment base. The Ministry has also launched a financial

loan initiative aimed at graduates, jobseekers and public sector employees who wish to engage in private activity.

59. As concerns efforts to promote the rights of migrant workers, the Council of Ministers issued its Decree No. 148 of 2024 specifying rules and conditions for the licensing of labour service companies. In addition to this, Council of Ministers Decree No. 799 of 2024 grants migrant workers who came into the country lawfully through official points of entry the opportunity to regularize their legal status.

D. Right to education

60. Act No. 95 of 1975, as amended by Act No. 18 of 2010, guarantees the right to education for all citizens. It envisages comprehensive education free of charge at all stages, which is currently a compulsory right up to the stage of basic education. Libya has made progress towards providing free education by admitting non-Libyans into basic education and waiving fees at the intermediate stage.

61. The Government of National Unity is working to strengthen educational facilities and infrastructure. To that end, it has signed off on a project to build 1,500 model schools with 5,800 classrooms and capacity for 348,000 students. Further progress has been made by increasing the overall number of schools and maintaining and upgrading existing ones. These efforts aim to reduce overcrowding and to reach an average classroom size of 25 pupils. In addition to this, 52 literacy schools have been established in various municipalities.

62. Libya has made considerable progress in ensuring access to safe water and sanitation services and facilitating hygiene within schools, taking due account of the needs of children and the specific requirements of persons with disabilities. In all, 6,611 schools have been equipped in this way, including 4,760 State-run schools and 1,851 private schools. These figures compare to 2020, when there were 4,956 such schools (4,140 State-run and 616 private). All these institutions accommodate the needs of children and the specific requirements of persons with disabilities while also taking due account of gender differences. One hundred per cent of the schools have electrical power, 7.32 per cent have Internet for educational purposes, 40.36 per cent have computer labs for educational purposes, 80.52 per cent have segregated sanitary facilities, 56.04 per cent have basic hand-washing facilities and 84.53 per cent have drinking water, either on tap or supplied.

63. Government spending on education is as follows:

(a) In 2024, the outlay on the Ministry of Education and its affiliated institutions amounted to LD 676,706,336,598.

(b) In 2024, the outlay on the Ministry of Higher Education and Academic Research and its affiliated institutions amounted to LD 2,858,768,053,698.

(c) In 2024, the outlay on the Ministry of Technical Education and its affiliated institutions amounted to LD 611,433,567,024.

E. Right to development

64. Via its development plan for the hydric resource sector 2020–2022, Libya hopes to achieve the indicators of Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, progressing towards universal access to sanitation and hygiene, with particular attention to women, girls and persons living in situations of vulnerability.

65. As part of its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the Ministry of Planning adopted a three-year development plan for all State-run sectors for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022. The plan explicitly incorporated the Goals as part of the country's proposed national development plan with a view to fulfilling the sustainable development indicators.

66. A national strategy for the development of statistics 2020–2025 seeks to transform and modernize the system for gathering statistics. The focus of the strategy is to develop and improve information management systems in ministries and other agencies and departments,

while also engaging with non-traditional data providers. It also addresses the need to facilitate access to data for users thereby enabling them to take well-informed decisions and contribute to the process of building the nation and pursuing sustainable development. The strategy incorporates seven goals aimed at improving policies and the regulatory and institutional framework while modernizing physical and statistical infrastructure, developing statistic-gathering processes then implementing policies and developing human and institutional resources, making arrangements for sustainable cooperation with local and international organizations and modernizing statistical infrastructure.

67. Consideration has been given to the environmental and cultural characteristics of local communities by protecting their heritage and incorporating it into development. Moreover, the concept of sustainable cities has been integrated into the Libya Vision 2050.

68. Thanks to an incentive-oriented legislative and regulatory framework, steps have been taken to simplify the registration of businesses, facilitate access to financing and promote public-private partnerships, especially in energy and water projects.

69. The State has worked to improve access to water through a network of canals and groundwater wells as well as with the provision of sanitation services to almost 30 per cent of the population in major cities. According to a household income and expenditure survey conducted in 2022, 91.8 per cent of households own their homes either outright or in co-ownership. At the same time, just 1.3 per cent live in temporary housing and about 3.9 per cent in rented homes.

70. The State has been investing in people by improving the quality of education, expanding training and empowerment programmes and providing universal healthcare. It has also run a national population census to promote data-driven planning.

71. Action has been taken to promote decentralization by transferring authority to municipalities, enabling local revenue collection, developing financial systems for governance and transparency and using digital platforms to manage public funds.

72. Measures are being taken to establish solar- and wind-powered electricity production schemes, and a national strategy is in place that aims to produce 4 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2035. In addition to this, strategies have been launched to plant 100 million trees, recycle water and combat pollution.

VIII. Rights and empowerment of women

73. Article 7 of the draft Libyan Constitution stipulates that male and female citizens are equal before the law, without discrimination, which is prohibited in any form. Article 16 also guarantees equality of opportunity between citizens of both sexes. For this reason, the Government of National Unity attaches great importance to the rights and empowerment of women in core areas such as promoting equality and building a just society. To that end, it has put the following measures in place:

(a) Women's right to work in the judiciary and to occupy positions in the courts and in prosecution offices is guaranteed under national legislation. In fact, 1,431 women work in the judiciary where they account for more than 40 per cent of all staff. Women occupy some of the highest judicial ranks, including presidents of courts of appeal and members of the Supreme Council of the Judiciary and of other high-level courts.

(b) In June 2020, the Supreme Judicial Council established two specialized courts in the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi. Six judges (five women and one man) have been appointed to sit on the new courts, the purpose of which is to promote the human rights of women and children, to help female victims of violence access specialized justice and to take action on the complaints they submit.

(c) Women have held five ministerial portfolios, including Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Justice. Women have also headed the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Women's Affairs. Thus, women account for 15 per cent of members of the Government of National Unity, the highest percentage in the history of successive governments.

74. The Ministry of Women's Affairs has adopted four of the areas covered in the "Return of life" plan, which was launched by the Prime Minister in 2021 and which focuses on empowering Libyan women across a number of fields. Working in harmony with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Beijing Declaration, the Ministry has been running programmes and activities in cooperation with other authorities. For its part, a strategy commission within the Ministry has adopted a plan of action that aims to advance the role of women at all levels and to encourage them to participate in public life and take advantage of the opportunities offered to them in terms of education, employment, care and appointments. The budget for implementing the plan of action is reliant on international support because the adoption of a national strategy for Libyan women 2023–2027 envisions the formation of databases on the needs of women, particularly in remote villages and areas. An initiative has been launched to support women in vulnerable and marginalised groups.

75. In 2023, the Government of National Unity decided to allocate a budget for women's support and empowerment offices. The decision produced positive results, and the number of such offices across Libya has now reached 136.

76. The Minister of the Interior distributed Circular No. 3886/3.13 of 2024, which concerns the measures to be taken to protect the privacy of women working at the Ministry. The Circular draws on article 13 of Labour Relations Act No. 12 of 2010, which states: "Institutions that employ women are required to provide suitable workplaces and working conditions as well as the requisite privacy. They may also provide transportation to and from the place of work, whenever possible." The Circular also refers to article 48 of the Act regarding toilets for women: "Employers are required to provide their workers with a sufficient number of toilets. If workers of both sexes are employed in the same place, employers are required to provide toilet facilities for women, separate from the toilets for men."

77. Awareness-raising programmes have been organized for families on how to deal with issues such as child protection and how to confront violence in public places and sexual harassment.

78. Another issue is that of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls. Cybercrime Act No. 15 of 2022 will contribute significantly to the fight against such cyberviolence.

79. Social protection organizations seek to provide a safe environment and assistance for women and girls who might have been exposed to violence in conflict-affected environments.

80. The State uses law and legislation to curb and prevent child marriage and forced early marriage. Legal measures in this regard are regulated by Decree No. 353 of 2019, whereby an official may not conclude a contract of marriage involving persons who have not reached the marriageable age set forth in Act No. 10 of 1984 concerning marriage and divorce, as certified by a competent judge.

81. The Minister of Local Government issued Decree No. 1500 of 2021 concerning the adoption of a standardized organizational structure for municipalities. The Decree includes provision for support and empowerment offices for women that seek to consolidate their participation at the local level. The Minister also issued Decree No. 280 of 2022 regarding a forum dedicated to issues affecting female members of municipal councils, the aim being to enhance the capabilities and skills of women who have been elected to positions within local government and to establish an organizational framework whereby members of the forum can communicate and exchange theoretical and practical knowledge on how to support and empower women in local development. During the course of 2023, training programmes were run in 32 municipalities using funds allocated by the Ministry of Local Government. The programmes – part of broader initiatives to support decentralization and empowerment – focused on the empowerment of women, legal frameworks, vocational empowerment, the challenges facing women in society and the examination of available opportunities. One event in 2023 was the first annual "female entrepreneurs" programme, which aimed to improve communication, leadership and analytical skills and the effective integration of women entrepreneurs into their communities. The programmes, which were run in most areas of Libya, also integrated national reconciliation strategies and decision-making processes.

82. Women have been empowered to submit complaints and reports and to voice grievances regarding all forms of violence by individuals in the community, in the workplace or in any State sector. Under the law, they can submit their complaints to departments or offices dealing with follow-up and performance evaluation, legal affairs or administrative oversight as well as to women's support and empowerment offices. Complaints of violence are received and victims are interviewed by family and child protection offices in the regional security directorates belonging to the Ministry of the Interior before being referred to the courts. Physical and mental healthcare is provided to female victims of violence at healthcare offices run by the Ministry of Health. At the same time, counselling is available via a free hotline run by a number of other ministries.

83. The presence of a large number of women in the police, the judiciary, the courts and human rights offices has helped to reduce or address existing violence. Another significant factor in that regard is the existence of women-only teams to conduct arrests and investigations.

84. A women's affairs division has been established in the Office of the Military Prosecutor to promote the role of women in the military and create a fair working environment.

85. Events for women in the military have been organized thanks to coordination with the Ministry of Women's Affairs of the Government of National Unity.

IX. Rights of the child

86. In the light of the fact that children are the mainstay of society and its advancement, the State strives to create an environment suitable for their growth and development, in accordance with article 28 of the draft constitution, and the Government of National Unity makes every effort to protect children in everyday life. As part of the United Nations system which is concerned with the welfare of children, Libya was quick to accede to and ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols. In addition to this, Libyan legislators have enacted a body of child-related laws, including Act No. 109 of 1972 concerning homes for juveniles and juvenile education, Act No. 17 of 1972 on the situation of minors and persons of equivalent status and the Child Protection Act No. 5 of 1997.

87. As part of its efforts to promote child rights, the Government of National Unity has adopted a national strategy for children, which includes a four-dimensional analysis of the current situation, covering the right to health and survival; the right to education, development and capacity-building; the right to live in safety; and the right to participation and non-discrimination.

88. Different national sectors strive to create a favourable environment for all children in Libya and to promote their rights. In order to advance those efforts, the Higher Committee for Children was restructured under Decree of the Council of Ministers No. 511 of 2024. The Committee supports efforts made by public bodies and civil society institutions that work with children and seeks to enhance the role played by cultural and media outlets in educating families and society. The Committee also organizes conferences and seminars on child-related topics, expresses its views on treaties affecting children, drafts the relevant reports under those treaties and pursues their implementation.

89. In response to the recommendations to reinforce legal and political action to guarantee children's rights and to make greater efforts to protect children in times of conflict, the Government of National Unity has been working to bring national law into line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict while, for its part, the Ministry of Defence has told all military units not to recruit or engage persons under the age of 18. Also, a bill has been submitted to the House of Representatives which is to be integrated into the Military Criminal Code and would outlaw the recruitment of children. The bill has been duly approved by the legislative committee of the House.

90. Libya has a single government department with national-level responsibilities to address violence against children as a specific sectoral objective. This is the family and child

protection office in the department for international relations and cooperation at the Ministry of the Interior. The office coordinates between different ministries and different levels of government (central, regional and local) that are responsible for developing action plans and policies at the national level. It monitors and revises such plans and policies, proposes legislation, collects data on violence and provides advice with a view to violence prevention. It also designs and implements preventive action and cooperates with non-governmental bodies such as United Nations agencies to address violence against children.

X. Rights of persons with disabilities

91. Libya remains committed to action on behalf of persons with disabilities in order to ensure that they are able to enjoy all their health, social, educational, political, economic and sporting rights on an equal footing with others, in accordance with article 60 of the draft constitution. The State also seeks to adapt public and private facilities and the broader environment in such a way as to enable persons with disabilities to integrate fully into society. To that end, the Government of National Unity has issued the following:

(a) Decree No. 468 of 2021 raising the value of the domestic assistance subsidy for persons with disabilities.

(b) A 2025 national strategy for persons with disabilities which aims to promote the social and economic inclusion of such persons and to ensure that they are able to exercise their rights in different areas, in a manner consistent with international human rights standards and with best practices in the field of disability care.

92. The Ministry of Defence also provides healthcare for persons with disabilities via its military medical services, which delivers the following amenities:

(a) Periodic medical examinations for persons with disabilities – both civilians and military personnel – as well as drugs and medical supplies, wheelchairs, prostheses and other assistive devices.

(b) Physical therapy, psychological support and treatment for addiction.

(c) Reproductive healthcare services and infertility treatment.

(d) Training, habilitation and post-disability reintegration.

(e) Post-traumatic stress therapy and post-war therapy.

(f) Enabling persons with disabilities to work in the wounded and amputee department of military medical services.

93. On 14 December 2023, the Ministry of the Interior issued Circular No. 4 of 2023, which enjoins respect for persons with disabilities and their inclusion in events, field visits, conferences and festivals.

94. The Government of National Unity has launched a project to provide cars for persons with disabilities. Such persons were at the forefront of the Government's mind when it inaugurated the Supreme Council for Person with Disabilities. It also disbursed 450 marriage grants to persons with disabilities and increased their allowances by around 45 per cent. On 30 November 2021, an agreement was signed between the administrators of the Social Solidarity Fund and Hyundai to supply cars for persons with special needs, with the Government paying 50 per cent of the cost of the vehicles. A first batch of 2,300 cars was distributed in May 2022 and a second batch of 3,000 cars in 2023.

95. Circular No. 4 of 2023 issued by the Minister of the Interior in the Government of National Unity places police officials under an obligation to respect and protect persons with disabilities.

XI. Internally displaced persons

96. Libya has made significant progress towards resolving the issue of internally displaced persons. As of 2023, efforts made at the national level have succeeded in resolving

matters for 80 per cent of internally displaced persons. This has come about thanks to social reintegration, reconstruction in conflict-affected areas, the inclusion of internally displaced persons in social welfare programmes and the removal of legal and administrative obstacles to integration. These efforts have garnered praise from the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Solutions to Internal Displacement, Robert Piper.

XII. Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants

97. Libya is severely affected by illegal migration, as millions of migrants cross the country to reach the southern shores of Europe. The State seeks to deal with that migration in coordination with United Nations agencies, and it cannot be held responsible for the failure of the international community to address and resolve the phenomenon, which is so thorny and painful in humanitarian terms and which is linked to systematic policies on the part of international gangs to humiliate and exploit migrants from all countries of the world. In that regard, Libya reiterates its call for countries of origin and countries of destination to come together in a comprehensive approach to the problem, one that takes due account of its root causes, in order to promote socioeconomic development in countries of origin and to combat illegal migration and trafficking in persons.

98. The Ministry of the Interior is careful to operate according to humanitarian norms in its dealings with unlawful migrants in migrant shelters. In that connection, the Ministry issued its Decree No. 281 of 2022 promulgating rules of conduct for the police in their interaction with unlawful migrants. The Decree, which sets forth specific rules and regulations for dealing with unlawful migrants in migrant shelters and hostels, seeks to establish an overarching framework with specific modalities to ensure that law enforcement officials working inside the shelters and migration control teams apply humanitarian values and operate effectively, fairly and neutrally. The Decree also seeks to ensure that the treatment of migrants is governed by principles of equality and of non-discrimination on grounds of sex, colour, religion, ethnicity or language, and it forbids any form of physical or mental torture, or of cruel or inhumane treatment, for any reason.

99. In the course of its efforts to combat unlawful migration and to protect trafficking victims, the Office of the Public Prosecution handled 3,867 cases of trafficking in persons in 2023 and 2,739 cases in 2024.

100. The Supreme Council of the Judiciary issued Decree No. 10 of 2006 regarding the creation of prosecution offices and courts of summary jurisdiction as part of the system of courts of first instance. The purpose of the new structures is to investigate cases involving unlawful migration, migrants and any violations committed against them, under Act No. 19 of 2010 on combating illegal migration and Act No. 6 of 1987 on regulating the entry and residency of foreigners in Libya.

101. The Prosecutor General has created a unit to oversee prosecution offices that deal with cases of unlawful migration across national territory and that investigate the migration-related activity of criminal gangs and armed groups, which are responsible for unlawful migration and human trafficking on a wide scale, and other related crimes. Nearly 100 cases have been submitted to the unit since it was created, all of which concern criminal gangs that engage in smuggling and other criminal acts that constitute serious human rights violations. These cases have been sent for trial and severe penalties have been handed down, as envisaged in Libyan law.

102. As part of its efforts to combat illegal migration, guarantee the rights of migrants and protect victims of human trafficking, the Office of the Prosecutor General has identified sources of migration and migratory routes, as well as migrant gathering points and the parties in neighbouring countries and countries of destination who support and assist migration-related activities, both at home and abroad. In addition, it has been able to identify a large number of suspects, inside and outside the country, and has compiled files on them, many of whom have been arrested in the wake of ambushes organized by security authorities and the police.

103. The Office of the Public Prosecutor coordinates with the coastguard, border guards and other law enforcement authorities concerned with unlawful migration in the arrest, questioning, detention and prosecution of large numbers of persons implicated in criminal activities that involve serious violations of the rights of irregular migrants, such as unlawful killing, torture, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and human trafficking.

104. Investigations into cases such as these have led to the dismantling of a large number of criminal organizations that engage in smuggling, human trafficking, torture, murder, enforced disappearance and extortion. As a result, large numbers of migrants have been released.

105. Between 2021 and 2025, as a result of intensive efforts on the part of the Office of the Public Prosecutor to pursue and investigate criminal gangs (involving, in many cases, ambushes against them) thousands of migrants who had been detained by the gangs were set at liberty. This happened in Shuwayrif, Zuwarah, Zawiyah, Sabratah, Zillah, Tubruq, Ajdabiya, Kufrah, Bani Walid, Khoms and Qasr al-Qarabulli. Signs of torture on the detained migrants were examined and documented, and the suspects were arrested and sent for trial in the light of the evidence obtained.

106. The Office of the Public Prosecutor has handled a considerable number of cases in which criminal organizations were found to have engaged in murder, torture, arbitrary detention, extortion and human trafficking against irregular migrants. The courts duly handed down severe sentences against the accused persons concerned, including life imprisonment.

107. The most recent action to have been taken by the Office of the Public Prosecution in this context is a decree issued by the Public Prosecutor in June 2025 to form a committee to investigate reports and complaints against members of a criminal organization known as the “Al-Amu” group. The committee began its work, which eventually resulted in the liberation of 280 migrants and the arrest of 10 persons suspected of involvement in crimes such as murder, attempted murder, physical abuse, abduction, arbitrary detention and trafficking in persons, drugs and arms. Orders have been issued for the arrest of the remaining members of the group.

108. In the course of patrolling Libyan territorial waters, the search and rescue unit of the coastguard and the port security unit of the Chief of Staff of Naval Forces were able to effect the rescue of a number of migrants. Specifically, in 2024/25, 430 patrols were conducted and 29,571 people were rescued.

109. On 30 July 2024, with a view to reinforcing its role in the prevention of organized crime, the Office of the Public Prosecution announced an initiative aimed at unifying and focusing efforts on the fight against trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling. The initiative also envisages action to rescue and protect victims of those crimes. On 7 May 2025, once the final wording of the initiative had been agreed, the Criminological Research and Training Centre of the Office of the Public Prosecution and the regional representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime signed a document in which they agreed to implement a project to build capacity across North Africa with a view to tackling migrant smuggling and human trafficking and rescuing and protecting victims.

XIII. Awareness-raising and capacity-building in the field of human rights

110. The Council of Ministers issued its Decree No. 573 of 2021 to establish the Criminological Research and Training Centre, followed by its Decree No. 18 of 2022 regarding the Centre’s operational structure and its first-level leadership, which is to be made up of the Prosecutor General, the President of the Supreme Council of the Judiciary and two university professors of criminology. In order to fulfil its purpose, the Centre is also to have a technical board made up of judicial officials renowned for their ability, legal knowledge and research capacities as well as academic figures of various disciplines including sociology, psychology, planning and training.

111. As part of its efforts to fight organized crime and the groups that perpetrate it, the Criminological Research and Training Centre of the Office of the Public Prosecution has

organized an initiative aimed at helping the Libyan Maritime Safety and Security Directorate combat such crime in all its forms, such as trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, drugs, waste or fuel. The initiative, which also involved officials of the criminal justice system and international experts, is part of the Centre's training plan for the judicial year 2024/25. In addition, the Criminological Research and Training Centre of the Office of the Public Prosecution continues to run programmes to reinforce the courts' response to crimes of corruption. It has also held its first conference on legislative systems and criminal justice ("Assessment and evaluation"). The Centre organized the conference as a way for researchers to contribute to the quality of criminal justice by examining law and society and conducting traditional and practical legal studies with a view to undertaking a precise analysis and evaluation of the processes and structures of criminal justice. The Centre has also promoted activities to develop human and institutional judicial response capacities in areas such as cybercrime, terrorism and transnational organized crime.

112. The Ministry of the Interior of the Government of National Unity has been seeking to disseminate human rights culture among military units and security forces. To that end, the Government has organized several training courses and workshops with a view to creating a just and equal society that contributes to achieving security, peace, stability and social well-being and to encouraging positive forms of behaviour that respect the rights of others and prevent human rights violations. The Ministry has rolled out a number of programmes in this regard, which are detailed below.

113. One of the programmes consisted in an awareness-raising plan for 2024, which included seven lectures on a unified code of conduct for the military, security services and police, issued by the office for human rights and international humanitarian law at the Ministry of Defence. The code of conduct has been distributed by the Council of Ministers of the Government of National Unity to all relevant ministries (the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Interior) as well as to the Chief of General Staff and all security agencies that are answerable to the executive. All those bodies are required to abide by the provisions of the code.

114. Another programme is the awareness-raising plan for 2025, which also includes training courses and workshops. It also envisages a conference to be held during the year involving 12 seminars and 8 workshops on the effectiveness of governmental human rights institutions, the extent to which evidence-gathering procedures under national law are consistent with international human rights standards, the legal and practical challenges faced by migrant shelters, a code of legal conduct for security personnel, trafficking victims in domestic legislation and international treaties, child protection in Libya and the role of effective institutions.

115. For its part, the human rights office of the Ministry of the Interior has coordinated and cooperated with human rights institutions at the local level to participate in 30 rights-related activities with local and international organizations, the aim being to build the effectiveness and capacity of staff across several fields.

116. The Ministry of Defence is also attaching increasing importance to education and capacity building. To that end, in coordination with the Libyan Mine Action Centre, it has organized campaigns to raise awareness about the remnants of war, and it has provided training on international humanitarian law to legal and military advisers. The Ministry has also trained trainers in the law of armed conflict, and it has organized courses, workshops and seminars on human rights, international humanitarian law and international migration law. Lastly, it has also run workshops on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

XIV. Challenges that require the support of the international community

117. Libya has been in a situation of political division since 2014, a state of affairs that is reflected in every aspect of life in the country. One of the effects has been the disruption of measures to develop national law and legislation and bring it into line with the country's international obligations. The situation has also interfered with the possibility of voting on the draft constitution and has led to the repeated closure of oilfields, thereby occasioning

significant losses for the Libyan State. This is the biggest challenge currently facing Libya, which requires the support of the international community in order to become an effective and secure nation in its regional and international setting. In addition to this, migration flows have transformed Libya from a country of transit into a gathering point where international and transnational crime is flourishing. For this reason, action should not be limited merely to monitoring the Libyan coastline but should also extend to securing the country's borders in such a way as to prevent this phenomenon and its consequences.

118. Libyans look forward to the support of the international community to end the transitional phase and thus enable them to choose their own legislature and executive, put an end to the current political and institutional divide and reach lasting constitutional stability.

Conclusion

119. In submitting its fourth national report under the universal periodic review mechanism, Libya wishes to reaffirm its intention to continue to promote human rights within the framework of its national law and legislation and its regional and international commitments. The country looks forward to continuing to cooperate with the Human Rights Council and the universal periodic review mechanism in order to enhance protection and respect for human rights.

Notes

¹ مؤشر حرية الصحافة العالمي 2025، مراسلون بلا حدود