

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

Outcomes of closed roundtable meeting with Libyan authorities and civil society representatives on freedom of association in Libya:

Working together to promote and protect civic space - a key requirement for an inclusive and credible electoral process and peaceful transition

The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, Clément Nyaletsossi Voule, expressed his appreciation to all participants of a technical roundtable discussion on advancing the protection of the right to freedom of association in Libya, which he hosted in Geneva on 6-7 February 2024. The Special Rapporteur welcomed the commitments made by representatives of Libyan authorities to create an enabling legal framework for civil society.

The roundtable, brought together representatives of the Libyan executive and legislative authorities, the National Council of Civil Liberties and Human Rights, the Tripoli-based Civil Society Commission, and Libyan civil society experts and was also attended by representatives of the Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Service of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the Permanent Missions of Switzerland and Netherlands in their capacity as co-chairs of the Berlin process International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Working Group.

This roundtable, organized in collaboration with the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, provided a space for collaboration and discussion between Libyan authorities and civil society experts to identify ways forwards for ensuring the adoption of a legislative framework enabling the right to freedom of association, in compliance with the Libya's 2011 Constitutional Declaration and Libya's international human rights obligations and best practices.

The UN Special Rapporteur is encouraged by the commitment expressed by the participants to develop a roadmap for working together to promote enabling and inclusive civic space, including in the context of the upcoming elections in Libya.

During the discussion, all participants agreed on the importance of ensuring an enabling civic space, so that civil society across Libya can play their pivotal role in advancing sustainable peace, security and social and economic development and in fostering a State based on the rule of law and democracy. Participants also agreed on the importance of civil society to operate freely to monitor and oversee the elections so they can contribute towards ensuring a transparent and credible elections.

The Special Rapporteur recalls Libya's obligations to ensure that civil society, including women activists, are protected from attack, hate speech and stigmatization, including online, as well as from political interference and that they can access resources.

The Special Rapporteur continues to be available to provide his technical advice and expertise, building on the [letter](#) which he sent to the Libyan authorities in October 2023, to ensure the legal framework relevant to civil society is in line with Libya's international human rights obligations as well as international best practices.