



## Concept Note on the Workshop for CSOs on the Fourth Universal Periodic cycle

Tunis – February 24-26, 2025

### 1. General Framework:

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for Libya has been conducted three times so far: the first in November 2010, the second in May 2015, and the third in November 2020. The third report was met with significant openness from Libya, as it accepted 181 out of 285 recommendations, noted 68 recommendations, and rejected 36.

According to the United Nations Human Rights Council resolution (A/HRC/RES/5/1), UPR recommendations can either be "accepted" or "noted" by the state under review. Accepted recommendations indicate a commitment to implementation before the next review, while noted recommendations imply no formal commitment; however, they can still be implemented and monitored.

On November 12, 2025, Libya's fourth UPR report will be discussed, and it must be submitted to the UN Human Rights Council Secretariat by August 4, 2025. This report is expected to focus on Libya's progress in implementing the 181 accepted recommendations from the previous review. The United Nations encourages civil society organizations (CSOs) to participate in this process by submitting parallel reports, offering them an opportunity to engage internationally and enhance their credibility within Libya as key human rights defenders. Their participation will also help inform the national public opinion and the international community about human rights priorities and on-the-ground developments.

In this context, several initiatives have already taken place:

- In December 2022, the Rule of Law, Human Rights, and Transitional Justice Section of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) organized a workshop on implementing UPR recommendations and civil society's action plan.
- In March 2023, No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ), with support from the European Union, held a workshop on "The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Monitoring the Implementation of UPR Recommendations in Libya."

The main goal of these workshops was to outline key action plan elements, highlighting CSOs' role in:

1. Building partnerships and coalitions
2. Advocacy and mobilization efforts for implementing UPR recommendations

With the support of:



This project is funded  
by the European Union



These workshops also discussed Libya's accepted recommendations, identifying priority recommendations from a civil society perspective, including:

1. **Recommendation 139:** Continue the efforts made to support the process of transitional justice and national reconciliation
2. **Recommendation 255:** Continue to reform Libyan detention facilities to ensure the humane treatment of all migrants and other detainees.
3. **Recommendation 79:** Provide the necessary training to law enforcement officers on protecting and promoting human rights
4. **Recommendation 167:** Step up efforts to ensure the rule of law and transitional justice and prevent impunity
5. **Recommendation 113:** Promote economic and social development in a safe environment to safeguard people's economic, social and cultural rights  
**Recommendation 279:** Ensure the protection and enjoyment of human rights by internally displaced persons, including through their voluntary return to their places of origin and by establishing consultative and participatory mechanisms to ensure that they are involved in decision-making
6. **Recommendation 258:** Strengthen the legal protection of migrants victims of human rights violations.
7. **Recommendation 232:** Protect and fight against violence and discrimination against women.
8. **Recommendation 22:** Take further steps to enhance measures to implement the country's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
9. **Recommendation 250:** Take measures to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of every child, regardless of their origin or nationality.

These workshops also provided a platform for CSOs to exchange views on priority areas and themes and start data collection for drafting parallel reports for the fourth UPR cycle focused on **(i) migrants and asylum seekers, (ii) freedom of assembly and freedom of expression, (iii) arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance, and (iv) women's rights.**

### **Upcoming Workshop on the UPR for NGOs (February 2025)**

Building on these past efforts, a workshop will be held in Tunis from February 24-26, 2025, as a follow up to the previous workshops and in response to requests from several NGOs to prepare and submit parallel reports for Libya's fourth UPR cycle.

The Human Rights Council Secretariat has set the deadline for submitting CSOs reports to **April 7, 2025**.

The workshop is organized in partnership between:

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Libya
- Rule of Law & Human Rights Section of UNSMIL/OHCHR (UNSMIL HRS)
- UN Women
- No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ)

### **2. Workshop Objectives and Themes**

The primary goal of the workshop is to enhance the CSO's capacities, including Women Human Rights Defenders, to contribute to the UPR process for Libya by submitting four thematic parallel reports (**migrants and asylum seekers, freedom of assembly and freedom of expression, arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance, and women's rights**).

**Specific objectives include:**

- Ensure that the UPR reports prepared by NGOs are in line with the UPR guidance, gender mainstreamed and submitted in due time (before April 7, 2025).
- Enhance CSOs' capacity to protect human rights through engagement with international mechanisms.
- Strengthen CSOs' ability to network and build coalitions to advocate for human rights.
- Develop an action plan for preparing four thematic parallel reports before the April 7 deadline.
- Support outreach advocacy actions by bringing the embassies for a briefing by the participants.

**Workshop Themes:**

- Overview of the UPR human rights mechanism.
- Integrating human rights, gender and anti-discrimination approaches in UPR parallel reports.
- The role of civil society organizations in the UPR process.
- Reviewing and prioritizing UPR recommendations based on CSOs' human rights agenda for Libya.
- Planning for the four parallel reports to be submitted before April 7.

**3. Participants**

The workshop will include around 20 participants, representing civil society organizations (CSOs) focused on human rights and development, many of whom attended the previous two workshops.

**4. Experts**

The workshop will feature a number of human rights experts, including:

- **Kholoud Issa**, Senior Officer, Rule of Law & Human Rights, UNSMIL/OHCHR
- **Julia Day**, Rule of Law Analyst, UNDP Libya
- **Dr. Fathi Jarray**, University Professor, International Human Rights Expert
- **Nasser Kefi**, University Professor, International Human Rights Expert
- **Bassem Aicha**, International Expert in Human Rights and Strategic Planning
- **Frej Fenniche**, Regional Director for Middle East & North Africa, No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ),

**5. Workshop Agenda**

<b>Arrival Day: February 23, 2025</b>
Arrival, airport reception, and hotel accommodation.

<b>Day 1: February 24, 2025</b>		
<b>08:30 - 09:00</b>	Registration	
<b>09:00 - 09:30</b>	Opening Session	UNDP, UNSMIL, NPWJ
<b>09:30 - 10:00</b>	Introductory Session (Agenda Overview, Methodology)	UNDP
<b>10:00 - 11:00</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UPR Mechanism &amp; Civil Society's Role</li> <li>• Review of the UPR's recommendations accepted by Libya</li> </ul>	UNDP, UNSMIL NPWJ
<b>11:00-11:30</b>	Coffee break	
<b>11:30 - 13:00</b>	Parallel Reporting Methodology & Selection of the four themes for the parallel reports	NPWJ
<b>13:00-14:30</b>	Lunch	
<b>14:30 - 16:30</b>	Parallel Report Drafting – Group Work <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Migrants and asylum seekers</li> <li>ii. Freedom of assembly and freedom of expression</li> <li>iii. Arbitrary detention &amp; Enforced disappearance</li> <li>iv. Women's rights</li> </ol>	Experts  Each group composed of 4-5 participants will be coached by 1 expert to start writing the thematic reports
End of Day 1		

<b>Day 2: February 25, 2025</b>		
<b>09:00 - 11:00</b>	Parallel Report Drafting – Group Work <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Migrants and asylum seekers</li> <li>ii. Freedom of assembly and freedom of expression</li> <li>iii. Arbitrary detention &amp; Enforced disappearance</li> <li>iv. Women's rights</li> </ol>	Experts
<b>11:00-11:30</b>	Coffee break	
<b>11:30 – 13:00</b>	Continuation of working groups	Experts
<b>13:00-14:30</b>	Lunch	
<b>14:30-16:30</b>	Continuation of working groups	Experts
End of Day 2		

<b>Day 3: February 26, 2025</b>		
<b>09:00 - 11:00</b>	Presentation of the results of working groups (level of progress) agreeing on commitments	Working groups and Experts
<b>11:00-11:30</b>	Coffee break	
<b>11:30 - 13:00</b>	Discussion with International Partners  Closing Session	UNDP, UNSMIL, NPWJ International community
<b>13:00:</b>	Lunch	
End of Workshop		

<b>Departure Day: February 26, 2025</b>
Transfer to airport for departure to Tripoli