



United Nations Development Programme Libya

Quarterly News Letter

UNDP Libya- www.ly.undp.orgwww.facebook.com/undp.ly

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Supporting the Constitutional Roadmap in Libya: “promises and expectations

Constitution is one the fundamental laws and principles that prescribes the nature and functions of a government or an institution. After the Arab spring revolution, most countries in North African region are facing challenges in the transition process especially in elections and constitution making.

Post revolution Libya is part of the region. It is on verge of organizing nationwide election to designate 60 people who will become members of the Constitution Drafting Assembly (CDA). It is expected that the election will be conducted in the first quarter of 2014. According to the High National Election Commission, till December 31, 2013, the number of individuals registered to vote the upcoming election of the CDA reached 1,101,025.

The constitution-making process in Libya is expected to play an important role in Libya's



Panel members during the discussion

political transition to democracy. In this regard, the United Nations Development Programme started its support through awareness raising, dialogue around topics and discussion fora with civil society and academic community. On 8 December, 2013, the University of Tripoli/Faculty of Law organized the seminar "Constitutional roadmap in Libya-“promises and expectations”, with support from UNDP. During the debates, Libyan academics and Professors of Constitutional Law from the Alqadi Ayad University in Morocco addressed the process of constitution-making. During the event more than 100 participants including students, civil society members and academics participated.

In addition to this, UNDP has provided support to civil society with a focus on outreach and civic education. To ensure women's participation and make sure that their voices are heard in constitutional review process, UNDP in partnership with UNSMIL organized the Training of Facilitators' workshop aimed at building the capacities of 26 local facilitators who will run local dialogue sessions for women in 20 locations throughout the country. UNDP also supported three workshops for 60 women (representing CSOs

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and political parties) to build their understanding of the different roles of the legislative, executive and judicial branches with substantive experience shared from Lebanon, France, Spain and South Africa.

The year 2013 has seen many activities prior to CDA elections in preparation for the upcoming constitution of Libya which is will design the political outlook of the country. Encouraging grassroots involvement in the constitution-making process was one of the main activities of UNDP in 2013. "I WANT... in my Constitution" initiative was launched with the national CSOs Forum for a Democratic Libya.

The National Survey on the Constitution which was undertaken by the University of Benghazi is also the result of UNDP's support to the process. More than 3,300 interviews are conducted all over the country and the survey results is likely to help the Constitutional Drafting Assembly (CDA) in identifying and responding to the expectations of the Libyans in the constitutional process.

The technical support will continue even after the election of the CDA. UNDP will partner with CDA and CSOs in creating and maintaining high quality media engagement throughout the constitution-making process. To this end, UNDP is working with a private sector company to develop a national media campaign targeting women, youth and minorities. A public web-site and interactive platform will be launched soon which will facilitate broader public participation in the constitutional review process once the Drafting Assembly is in place.

Pre-election preparations: Constitutional Drafting Assembly

Promoting quality election media coverage



Journalists in a training

Libya is on crossroads looking for future stability and economic recovery. The nationwide election is expected to be conducted early 2014. So far, according to the High National Election Commission (HNEC) reports, 1,101,025 (of whom 40% women) Libyans are registered to elect members for the Constitutional Drafting Assembly.

As part of its efforts to support the election process, UNDP in cooperation with partners has been working in pre-election preparations to support Government institutions, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the local media outlets.

On December, 10, 2013, the UN elections team in Libya comprising of the United Nations Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) in cooperation with UNESCO conducted three days training workshop for local media outlets under a theme "Promoting quality elections

media coverage". It is one of the programmes launched jointly in cooperation with the High National Elections Commission of Libya. Similar training was given on November, 2013 to provide reporting skills to journalist, freelancers and PR officers of different institutions, on how to cover events during elections. Three workshops for journalists from the various regions of Libya were organized in December, targeting 80 journalists.

In the opening remarks, UNDP Country Director, Mr. Eric Overvest, highlighted "The main aim of this training is to encourage journalists to cover the upcoming elections in Libya objectively".



UNDP Country Director (right) and UNESCO representative during opening ceremony of the training for journalists

Moreover, a one-day seminar on how to work with media during elections was provided to staff of 50 civil society organizations. The training provided basic skills to media professionals aiming at improving free flow of information to the public and is expected to facilitate broad public debate ahead of the national and local upcoming elections. The training programme was supported financially by the Government of Japan.

Encouraging participation of women in constitution drafting: Workshop on advocacy, campaigning and lobbying

The interest of women’s participation in the political process is growing gradually as civil Society Organizations and members of the GNC are showing interest of cooperation to ensure women’s representation in the constitution drafting committee, though limited to 6 seats (10%) only. As part of its support to the transition into democratic process and to support women political participation, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) partnered with the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) in organizing several capacity building initiatives focusing on women candidates for Constitutional Drafting Assembly (CDA). From December 18-21, 2013, UNDP conducted skill training for women candidates for CDA. The objective of the training was to provide and equip women with relevant advocacy and lobbying tools which can be used in election campaigns. The training created an opportunity of networking among women candidates to share their experiences. Moreover, policy analysis and gender equality were among the themes deliberated during the workshop.

“The training is relevant as the challenges facing women candidates are several in elections and this kind of skill building training will definitely support women to analyze the political situation in Libya and it will enable female candi-



Women candidates for CDA in a training organized by UNDP

dates to create network and coordinate among different associations for common goals that women want to be integrated in the constitution”, said one of the participants.

The UN Development Programme in Libya has a long history in the country and its presence started back in the 1970s. Right after the independence and during the king Idris's rule, the UN opened an office in 1954 to support the country's development efforts. In 1976, UNDP signed a Standard Basic Framework Agreement (SBFA) with Libya which laid down the basis for all future development cooperation.

What we do in Libya:

A new era of collaboration started after the revolution in 2011. The Transitional Government of Libya requested UNDP to tailor its programmes to respond to the challenges and the needs of the new developments in the country. UNDP's programmes were technical and advisory support aligned for government institutions, Civil Society organizations (CSOs). Since then, the working relationship established with the Government of Libya has created a good platform of cooperation. Libya is the major donor to UNDP Libya and covered 56% of UNDP's resource requirements in the year 2013. The following are the ongoing projects



Events and cooperation agreements

Capacity building cooperation agreement between UNDP and the General National Congress

On 28 November, UNDP signed a cooperation agreement with the General National Congress. The ceremony was held at the GNC headquarter in Tripoli. During the course of 2013, UNDP had already provided technical expertise to the GNC, in particular the Secretariat to the GNC, but this cooperation agreement lays the foundation for longer term strengthening of the administrative capacity of the GNC.

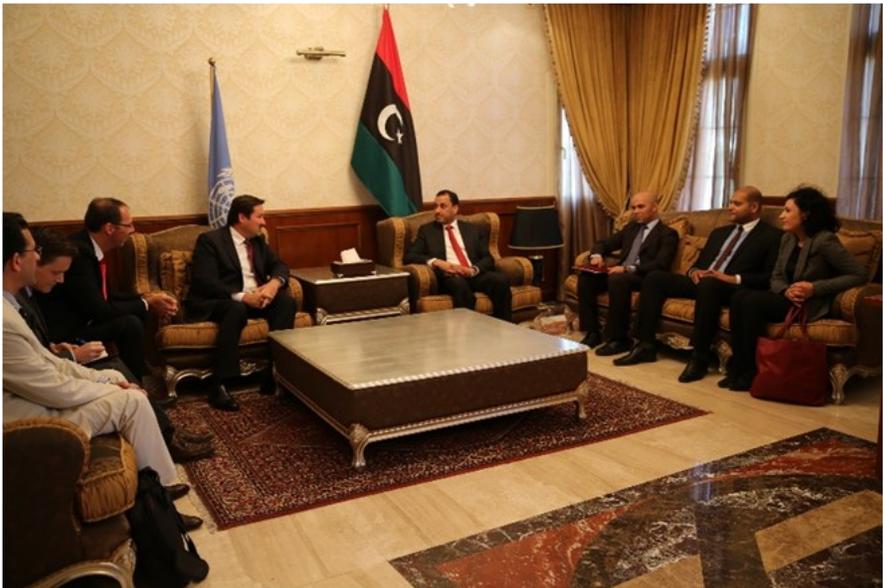
The project which is part of “Strengthening and Developing GNC Parliamentary Administration Capacities” was signed by Dr. Salah Al Mohammed Almahzom; Second Deputy President (SDP) of GNC, and the UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator in Libya, Mr. Georg Charpentier. The project aims at strengthening the GNC secretariat by reinforcing its departments and human resources in order to achieve effective performance. The parliamentary administration constitutes the institutional memory of the GNC and is considered as a condition in ensuring sustainable progress and transformation of parliamentary work for future parliaments in Libya.

During the signing ceremony Dr. Salah Al-Makhzom and Mr. Georg Charpentier stressed the importance of exchanging experiences and expertise which is part of the signed project. This project will be under the responsibility and implementation management of the UNDP and GNC funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

This new cooperation agreement marks the end of the engagement and technical support provided by UNDP to GNC during the transition from National Transitional Council (NTC) to the current General National Congress and enter to the new cooperation stated in the project document.



Dr. Salah Al Mohammed Almahzom and Mr. Georg Charpentier exchanging the endorsed documents



International Anti-Corruption Day

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in cooperation with Libyan Transparency Association commemorated the International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December 2013 under a theme “zero corruption and 100% development”. The Day calls for joint hands to fight the epidemic of corruption which already impacted negatively on billions of people globally. The purpose of the commemoration event is to sensitize and create awareness on the negative effects of corruption.

In his deliberations during the event, Mr. Eric Overvest, UNDP Country Director, stated that corruption violates human rights by worsening the pov-

erty situation and inequality as it diverts funds from the main social services. He further highlighted that corruption surpasses economic growth by increasing costs, and undermining the sustainable management of the environment by consuming the meager resources.



UNDP country Director (left) and Ahmad Ghanam from UNSMIL during the WACD commemoration event

Recent reports indicate that every year US\$ 1 trillion is paid in bribes while an estimated US\$ 2.6 trillion are stolen annually through corruption. Moreover, UNDP reports show that funds lost in developing countries to corruption are estimated at 10 times the amount of Official Development Assistance (ODA) which goes every year to developing countries.



Rehabilitation of old cities project

On December 23, 2013, the United Nations Development Programme and the Ministry of Local Government/Authority of Historical Cities of Libya signed a project document to launch the rehabilitation of Sabha “Jadeed” old historical city, as part of a wider initiative to rehabilitate old cities in Libya. The project builds on the previous rehabilitation project for the historical city of Ghadames.

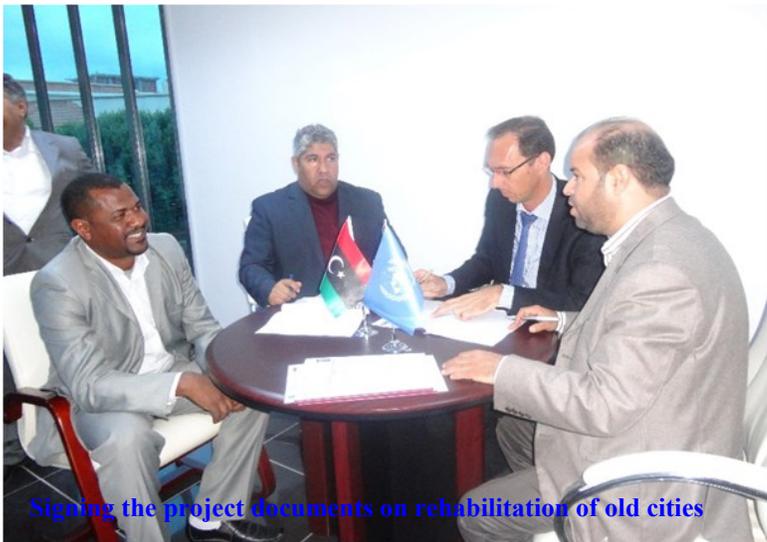
In a ceremony organized and hosted by the Ministry of Local Government, the UNDP Country Director, Mr. Eric Overvest, Mr. Saleh Saeed Mohammed on behalf of Ministry of Local Government and Mr. El Sadek Omran Elreigeg, General Manager of the Historical Cities Authority signed on the project document. The rehabilitation project will start the implementation in 2014 and is envisaged to create direct employment opportunities for about 500 local residents of Sabha and its environs. The project has two years life span with a total budget of about US\$ 2.4 million.

In addition to renovating the historical buildings,



the project will have an impact on the livelihoods of the population in the area as it will create income for the private sector, traditional handicrafts and businesses working for the rehabilitation of the old town.

After the renovation, it is expected that tourism sector will also pick up as most of the old cities of Libya have a remarkable and unique architecture styles. The project will play a role in creating employment and income generation through commu-



Signing the project documents on rehabilitation of old cities

nity-level engagement in the implementation as the long term objective of the project is to stimulate the economic, touristic and cultural development of Sabha.

A similar project was implemented in Ghadames area in 2004 by UNDP and created the local structures to maintain the old City and invest in the development of the tourism sector and local economic recovery. After the 2011 revolution, Sabha is the first historical city benefiting from such an initiative.

The project will also collaborate with UNESCO for its well-known expertise on management of historical cities, similar to the Ghadames project.

Study tours, workshops and South-South Cooperation

Study tour for legal professionals



UNDP organized a study tour to Belgium for member judges of the High Judicial Council of Libya including the prosecutor general. The visit which took place from 7-16 December, 2013 aimed at exchanging experiences with judicial institutions in Belgium. It aims also at supporting the High Judicial Council of Libya to engage with other international institutions and organizations to gain more knowledge and experience.

The tour study focused on the judicial system in Belgium and the participating legal experts and judges exchanged views and experiences with judicial institutions such as the Constitutional Court of Belgium, the Council of State, the

Court of Cassation and the Prosecution office.

Moreover, the delegation visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Union's Rule of Law and Justice Committee and other departments.

Finally the delegation visited the UNDP office in Brussels and as a symbolic sign of the International Human Rights week.

After endorsement of the project document on justice and rule of law in August 2013 by the Ministry of Justice, UNDP started to support the judicial reform process by organizing seminars with high ranking Libyan officials on institutional reform in post conflict societies.



Participants of the study tours in Belgium

Regional Consultation workshop on Local Governance

As part of UNDP's south-south cooperation programme, experience sharing workshop among the Arab Spring countries-Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Yemen was organized in Tunisia with the support of UNDP Regional Office (RCC). A Libyan delegation composed of representatives from Government, Municipalities and university participated in a Regional Workshop on "Strengthening Municipalities and Local Governance in the Arab countries in transition", in Tunisia, from 17-19 December 2013. The workshop was organized by RCC to bring together key experts and practitioners working on municipalities and local governance in transitional countries, to share experiences in local governance and decentralization initiatives.

The Libyan delegation shared the experience of Libya the transition in local governance including the new policies and directions.



Similar induction programme on local governance and decentralization is expected to be held in 2014 as part of the capacity building efforts of UNDP

The workshop enabled the participants to share and exchange lessons in local governance and decentralization initiatives from their respective countries. Similar induction programme on local governance and decentralization is expected to be held in 2014 as part of the capacity building efforts of UNDP.

Moreover, between November and December, 2013, UNDP through its local governance project organized two days



Local governance and decentralization workshop participants

training workshops involving 70 participants. The training focusing on general concepts of decentralization, governance systems and local governance was facilitated by the international expert. The participants were from Ministry of Local Government and two selected pilot municipalities of Libya.



For further information on our programmes and projects please visit our website at:

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