



Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ■ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

## **Libya International Peace Forum: Supporting the Role of Municipalities, Civil Society & Citizens in Peacebuilding at the Local Level Tuni \_ 6-7 September 2017**



### **Final Report**

### **Libya International Peace Forum**

**December 2017**

## Introduction

On 6-7 September 2017, Tunisia hosted the "Libya International Peace Forum" under the theme "Supporting the Role of Municipalities, Civil Society and Citizens in Building Peace at the Local Level", aiming to facilitate exchange and dialogue between local, regional and international communities and the existing peace initiatives in Libya.

The Forum was held at the initiative of the **Libya Local Governance and Stabilization Program** in, implemented by the International Center for Local Development and Good Governance (CIDG), the International Cooperation Agency of the Dutch Municipal Association (CILG-VNG International), the Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR), and supported by the European Union and the Dutch Government.

Around 150 participants representing the Libyan municipalities, representatives of various local and national civil society organizations engaging in peace building, mediation, reconciliation and stabilization efforts in Libya, as well as international NGOs, donors and partners involved in supporting Libyan-led peace initiatives, with effective participation of Libyan women, youth, nobles and elders.

At the Forum, more than 40 local peace initiatives from all over Libya were represented, including five local initiatives that directly resulted from the Libya Local Governance and Stabilization Programme. These initiatives highlighted the importance civic as key element of the path towards stability and unity. Additionally, more than 40 international donors, diplomatic representations and international organizations were present, which allowed direct dialogue between field actors and donors to mobilize international support for local initiatives.

At the end of the forum, all parties agreed to continue their efforts based on the achieved results, and to continue their communication to support peaceful change processes in Libya as well as to intensify their efforts.





Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

## Executive Summary: Libya International Peace Forum

### The context

- The **Libya International Peace Forum** was organized at the initiative of the **Libya Local Governance and Stabilization Program**, implemented by the International Development Centre for Innovative Local Governance (**CILG**), the MENA Office of the International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Dutch Municipalities (**VNG International**), in collaboration with **PATRIR**, and supported by the European Union and the Dutch Government.
- One of the components of this project is the **support of local mediation and reconciliation initiatives**, led by local actors: municipalities, civil society, dignitaries, sheikhs and peace activists.
- The Forum was conceived as a space for presenting the results of the initiatives of this project, but also for other projects led by local actors or supported by international programs.
  - **First Objective:** To highlight local reconciliation initiatives in Libya
  - **Second Objective:** To mobilize international support for local initiatives
  - **Third Objective:** To support the peaceful course in Libya by deepening peace efforts
- Approximately **130 participants from Libyan municipalities, local and national civil society organizations** involved in peacebuilding, mediation, reconciliation and stabilization efforts in Libya and non-governmental organizations participated in the Forum as well as governmental agencies, donors and partners involved in supporting Libyan peace initiatives. The forum also witnessed the effective participation of Libyan women, youth, dignitaries and Sheikhs.
- During the Forum, more than **40 local peace initiatives** throughout Libya presented their work to more than **40 international donors, diplomatic representations and international organizations**. Five of the peace initiatives were directly connected to the Libya Local Governance and Stabilization project.

### Libya International Peace Forum – Highlights

- Peacebuilding efforts in Libya need to be **authentically inclusive**. All regions, all communities, all sectors of society need to be included. **Exclusion of any key stakeholders may weaken peace efforts**.
- **Municipalities, civil society, tribal leadership, women, business actors, youth and survivors are key stakeholders and drivers of peace in Libya** - though many have

Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

also contributed to the war and conflicts in the country. Given the realities in the country, sub-national mediation and peace processes need to be understood by all working for peace in Libya as a vital and important arena for achieving practical results, resolving conflicts, ending violence, and contributing to lasting peace in the country.

- **Women are critical actors for peace in Libya at all levels.** Engagement, leadership and empowerment of women in peacebuilding are essentials. Men have an important role to play in actively supporting women's engagement. Peace efforts where women are actively involved stand a higher likelihood of success and last longer.
- **Sustainable peace in Libya is about more than just an agreement or stopping fighting.** Building peace will not be easy, it requires a lot from all sectors of Libyan society. The long-term process of resolving conflicts, healing from the visible and invisible impacts and effects of violence, achieving authentic reconciliation, and building a future beyond the war in Libya will take years and even decades. Honest preparation, perseverance, determined efforts and *cooperation* is essential.
- **A culture of peace, coexistence and acceptance of the other is far from being achieved in Libya.** There are some, but few, exceptions. Creating a culture of peace and the courage for peace, authentic respect of the other, and the leadership to work to transcend and overcome conflicts together are essential elements of sustainable peace in Libya.
- **Inclusive governance, security sector reform, and acceptance of a constitution are critical to laying the foundations for lasting peace in Libya.** These need to be dealt with in ways that heal divisions of the past.
- **Economic development and creating livelihood and opportunities** - including for former combatants - will be critical for short and long-term recovery in Libya and will not be easy. It has become increasingly difficult for Local Authorities to provide for basic services and needs due to lack of transfers from central authority.
- **Media is potentially a very important actor for peace** in Libya and there are some examples of media playing a positive, constructive role, and many examples of media actively waging conflict and fueling violence. Engagement with media to promote peace journalism and responsible reporting is a key component of peacebuilding in Libya.
- There are many key sectors and people dedicated to overcoming the legacy of the war in Libya and building lasting peace in the country - a community of peace workers. **Strengthening real cooperation and engagement together is important.**
- **Peacebuilding in Libya must be owned, driven and developed by the people of Libya themselves.** Again: municipalities and other key stakeholders have a vital role to play here and can be powerful drivers of peace in Libya.
- The international community has a **responsibility to listen** to the voices of the people of Libya and ensure good practice in their support for peace efforts in the country CSOs and municipalities are not just 'implementers' of donor funded projects or international

Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

partner supported activities. They are the **owners of peacebuilding in Libya** and their voices and vision should drive peace efforts and peace support.

- Local reconciliation work led by municipalities, civil society organizations and sheikhs can **deliver concrete results on the ground**, contain conflicts and improve living conditions in whole regions.
- Despite the importance of its results, **local reconciliation actions cannot overcome all conflicts in Libya in a radical way** and should be **part of an integrated path to peace** in Libya that includes national reconciliation, transitional justice, building local and national institutions and establishing the concept of citizenship.
- Youth, through their multiplicity of initiatives and determination to build peace, demonstrate that they **restoring hope**. Youth's ability to network, lead and implement peace initiatives makes it a key player in this area and it is necessary to support them.

## Libya International Peace Forum - Results

- **First Result: Highlight local reconciliation initiatives in Libya**

The Forum was a space where a wide range of initiatives were presented: methodologies, successes, difficulties and failures, sharing best practices among different actors from different sectors with media coverage

- **Second Result: Mobilize international support for local initiatives**

More than 40 initiatives were presented to more than 40 international donors, diplomatic representations and international organizations with a space for direct dialogue between field actors and donors. Donors now have to act and strengthen their support for local peace initiatives.

- **Third Result: Commitment to continue the support for peaceful change in Libya**

All participating parties to the Forum affirmed to continue their efforts to resolve conflicts and other issues the country is facing in a peaceful manner.

## Libya International Peace Forum–The way forward

- Continuing the efforts to support local peace initiatives in Libya
- Supporting and empowering local actors in Libya
- Extending the dialogue between local actors of peace in Libya and between local actors and the international community
- Enabling peace processes in Libya to benefit from the results of local initiatives



Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

## Libya International Peace Forum Agenda September 6 – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

<b>Day 1 : September 6th</b>		
Arrival & Registration		
Opening & Welcome		
Coffee Break		
<b>Plenary session 1:</b> The Role and Importance of Sub-National Mediation, Peacebuilding & Peace Processes in Libya		
<b>Workshop 1</b> Libyan Municipalities: Peacebuilding Needs & Objectives	<b>Workshop 2</b> The Critical Role of Women in Peacebuilding, Mediation & Peace Processes in Libya	<b>Workshop 3</b> Supporting Sub-National Peace Processes, Mediation & Peacebuilding in Libya: 2 Case Studies
Lunch		
<b>Plenary session 2:</b> Improving Peace Support for Libya		
<b>Workshop 4</b> International Support to Peacebuilding & Mediation in Libya: The Role of Donors – Lessons Learned & Good and Bad Practices	<b>Workshop 5</b> Facilitated Workshop: Addressing the Lasting Impacts of the War in Libya on Governance, Politics, Economics and Society – Charting Paths for Sustainable Peace & Recovery	<b>Workshop 6</b> Libyan Civil Society: Experiences, Challenges and Opportunities – A Vital Force for Peace in Libya
Recap of Day 1 & Overview Day 2		
<b>Day 2 : September 7th</b>		
<b>Plenary session 3:</b> Achievements of the Libya Local Governance & Stabilisation Programme		
Coffee Break		
<b>Workshop 7</b> Youth Peacebuilding Programming in Libya & Supporting Libyan Youth Peace Efforts	<b>Workshop 8</b> Local Reconciliation Agreements in Libya Since 2011	<b>Workshop 9</b> Facilitated Workshop: Lessons Learned in Libya – identifying & sharing good practices, bad practices and recommendations for improving peace support in Libya
Lunch		
<b>Plenary Session 4:</b> A Dialogue on Peace, Coexistence and Recovery in Libya		
<b>Workshop 10</b> Opportunities & Challenges Facing Peacebuilding in Libya: Ensuring Libyan Ownership & Creating Strong Foundations for Peacebuilding and Mediation in Libya	<b>Workshop 11</b> Addressing Radicalisation & Violent Extremism: Evidence-based & Peacebuilding Approaches	<b>Workshop 12</b> Protecting Libyan Peace Activists: Addressing the safety and security of those working for peace in Libya
Closing Celebration-Event		

**Day 1, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Opening Session:**

**Dr. Neila Akrimi, General Director of CILG- VNGI** delivered the opening speech, welcomed the distinguished guests and stressed the importance of this International Conference in helping to bring peace to Libya by enabling civil society to participate in resolving the current crisis, as the latter has a major role in bringing peace.



In his intervention, the **Mayor of the municipality of Gharyan, Mr. Youssef Ibderi**, highlighted the great role of the municipalities in bringing peace to Libya despite the difficult conditions in the budget and the transfer of powers. The municipalities have proved their ability by supporting political dialogue and rapprochement between the political parties, as well as its effective contribution to building the State, promoting good governance and ending the marginalization suffered by most areas of Libya.

He also referred to the role of international organizations in helping municipalities even in difficult security conditions, especially the International Center for Innovative Local Governance, via the project for the establishment of geographic information systems for the municipality of Gharian within the framework of the Libya Local Governance and Stabilization Programme.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands also contributed to support the Libyan municipalities by supporting the security and community stability. The experience of the municipality of Gharian is considered as a model for the program to be expanded later to other municipalities.

The **Civil society activist Ms. Fathia**, from Sebha stressed the importance of these initiatives, which started in 2011 and aims at achieving peace in Libya. This conference seeks to enable civil society organizations to contribute to resolving the crisis and to restore security and stability in Libya.

Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

The floor was then given to **Sheikh Omar Sandu (Sheikh from Tuareg)** who stressed the importance of peace in advancing development and began his speech by highlighting the concept of peace in the Islamic religion and the Holy Quran. He also highlighted the role of tribal sheikhs, dignitaries and traditional authorities in making peace, where sheikhs and dignitaries play a major role in establishing peace. Most reconciliations are carried out by Sheikhs and elders, such as the reconciliation that took place in the city of Uberi between Tabu and Tuareg. He explained the need to further activate the role of tribal elders and dignitaries in making peace.

From his part, his Excellency the **Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Eric Sterling**, opened his intervention by highlighting the importance of achieving peace in Libya and expediting it as soon as possible, which is necessary as there is no time to waste. He also pointed out that the reason behind the organization of this forum is to support local government and municipalities in achieving peace.



The Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands focused his intervention on three main axes:

- **First:** The role and importance of the levels of achieving peace: national, regional and local, as it is necessary to support the role of international and local mediators in achieving peace in Libya.
- **Second:** The role and importance of local government and municipalities in achieving peace. There are many municipalities that play an important role in achieving peace. The Kingdom of the Netherlands supports peace and development projects at the local level through the **Libya Local Governance and Stabilization Program**.
- **Third:** The importance of gender: The role of women in peace-building, where women have an important and fundamental role in achieving peace. The Kingdom of the Netherlands supports the role of women in the public sphere and in politics.

As for her excellency, **Bettina Musheidt, the Ambassador of the European Union to Libya**, she highlighted the importance of the presence of tribal sheikhs, mayors and civil society activists who represent the different fabric of the Libyan society. These components can express



Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

the views of what Libya will be in the future. She also stressed the importance of turning the aspirations of peace into reality.



The Ambassador explained the role of the European Union in supporting the efforts of the international organizations, as well as the efforts made by the **VNGI** through the transfer of Dutch experiences to municipalities in Libya.

In addition, the Ambassador referred to the key role of women in the peace building efforts in Libya. The European Union regards women as a fixed value, representing half of the society and emphasizes the need for women to be pioneers in the first stages.

In another clarification, the role of the United Nations in supporting the peace efforts in Libya was emphasized, as well as the need to cooperate with neighbouring countries in many areas to achieve peace and development.

Finally, **Kai Brand Jacobsen, Director of the Department of Peace Operations at PATRIR**, pointed out that the exclusion of part of the Libyan society means the failure of the peace process because all parties must be involved in the peace process in Libya. Libyan society must be deeply understood by actors that engage in the country, and they must guarantee the comprehensive participation of all parties. The solution for the Libyan conflict must come from Libya.

Mr. Brand Jacobsen also noted that there is a strong and engaged civil society in Libya. Attempts by any side to politicize efforts weaken the process. The components of Libyan society, which has its specificities and must be respected, must be consolidated in the achievement of peace.

Mr. Brand Jacobsen explained that the European Union is participating with the United Nations, the Arab League and the African Union in efforts to resolve the crisis and that this Forum represents a space of sharing expertise for all participants.

The most important points raised during the interventions were:

Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

- The significance of the role of municipalities and the community in avoiding conflicts and establishing peace.
- The issue of leadership, relationship and coexistence.
- The concept of peace in Libya.
- Levels of peace in Libya: national, regional and local.
- The importance of services and economic development at the local level.
- The concept of citizenship, partnership and engagement.
- Transparency.
- Highlighting Libyan initiatives within the framework of the presented programs.
- Focus on the auto Libyan experience.
- The solution is mainly the Libyan-Libyan dialogue.
- The conference represents a space for dialogue, experimentation and the role of local groups.

**Plenary Session 1: The role and importance of the local mediation process in peace-building and peace processes in Libya**

**Mr. Faraj Aban, Mayor of the Municipality of Janzur**, explained the role and importance of local mediation in peace building and peace processes in Libya. He also discussed the marginalization of municipalities in previous governments and the current government in achieving peace in Libya. For example, the experience of the Janzur municipality in bringing peace through reconciliation between Janzur, Zintan, Wercheffena, and Rajban.

Therefore, we conclude from these experiences the importance of Libyan-Libyan internal dialogue.

As for **Nasreen Ben Amer (civil society activist from Benghazi)**, she explained the results of the current crisis in Libya, which is the deterioration of living at all levels. This crisis requires activating the local governance for municipalities to improve the life of the Libyan citizen, which is considered an urgent need in this period.

She also stressed the role that the city of Misurata can play as a link between the different Libyan cities.

In his intervention, **Mr. Kai Brand Jacobsen, DPO-PATRIR**, noted that the Forum represented an opportunity to launch the peace initiative with the Libyans and to continue the peace efforts launched at the international, central and local levels. According to the diagnosis, 80% of the peace process at a central and international level failed and 90% did not reach a peace initiative. Therefore, there is a crucial role for municipalities and local levels in bringing peace to Libya.

Based on past experiences, local-level initiatives combining municipalities, tribal elders and local actors can be very successful.

Municipalities play an important role in achieving peace for several reasons:

## Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

- Cities are associated with a large proportion of violence and destruction. They are often the focal points of armed conflicts.
- Cities gather the most active actors at the local level. These actors play an important part in launching and sustaining peace initiatives, and municipalities are having easy access to them.

Local initiatives have been very successful in establishing peace and have highlighted the role of cities and municipalities in achieving peace around the world in various experiences such as Iraq and Syria, where municipalities and local councils have been a mediator and initiators of peace. Then, it is necessary to develop the capacities of the parties involved in the dialogue to bring peace at the local level.

Cities and municipalities suffer from central governance, central authority, weak possibilities, poor planning capacity, and weak culture of mediation and dialogue. Therefore, capacities of municipalities, local and municipal councils must be developed, activated and then used to mediate peace. **Mr. Brand Jacobsen** believes that local peacebuilding efforts should be amplified by international support. Instead, they often fail due to weak planning of international peacebuilding efforts. Too many international initiatives do not attach importance to the local role. It should mandatory to integrate the local and international initiatives to sustain maximal impact.

### **Workshop 1: Libyan Municipalities: Peacebuilding Needs and Objectives**

**Mrs. Fayza Al-Hamdi**, member of the municipal council of Zolton, analysed the current situation in the municipality and the various difficulties that impede the achievement of building the peace process in the region. She also stressed the need to initiate activities that contribute to stability by supporting the education sector for its close ties with youth. She referred to the most important experiences of Zolton city through the establishment of the Center for the Development of Women and Children's Capabilities, which seeks to develop a plan of action in line with the reality of the city of Zolton, which contributes greatly to the development and advancement of the city.



The floor was then given to **Mrs. Hana Khadoura, member of the Misrata Municipal Council**, who stressed the need to provide stability to advance the peace process, in addition to supporting all efforts and activities at the cultural and social level that contribute to spreading the culture of peace. She also called for the need to dismantle the powers to promote the principles of decentralization and improve the quality of services provided to citizens, which will contribute to stability.

From his part, **Mr. Faraj Aban, Mayor of the Municipality of Janzur**, explained the difficulties experienced by the municipalities. Municipalities that do not have the ability to provide something to the citizen in the light of the lack of budgets. He added that if the budgets were set and all powers are entrusted as agreed in the Skhirat agreement, the municipal council will play a stronger role in the security sector, the defense, the education and all problems related to services. In the absence of services and security, young people will be vulnerable to many negative phenomena.

**Mr. Mustafa Al Barouni, the Mayor of Zintan Municipality** stressed that the issue of peace requires giving the full powers of the municipalities to work and build stability in Libya, where many reconciliations actions took place since 2011 but didn't succeed because the process of stability is strongly linked to the economy. Currently, there is no hope on development that makes the citizen lose security and peace, working to support local governance and on development should be strengthened to achieve stability

**Mr. Mustapha** also referred to several other obstacles, such as provocative rhetoric calling for questioning and treachery, in addition to the role of the media in fuelling the situation, where reconciliation committees are working for days and some channels are destroying all efforts. The media must be accountable without compromising its freedom. It is necessary to work to raise awareness and spread a culture of peace especially among young people. The Zintan Municipal Council has carried out many reconciliations which have led to great stability by convincing young people to live peacefully without distinguishing between West, East and South.

On the other hand, **Mr. Nasser Kriwi, councillor of the Tripoli Center Municipality**, stressed that the situation after the elections has changed and there is an aggravation of the crisis in all departments, although Law 59 gave great powers to the municipality, but the problem in the transfer of powers, especially in an unstable state, it is therefore not easy to transfer powers in the absence of a centralized government.

Then, **Mr. Arne Musch, from VNG International**, intervened to summarize what was mentioned in the discussion, where he stressed that the main issue is related to decentralization as a decision referring to the facilitation of the work of municipalities.

Then the debate was opened. Some questions were asked to the municipal representatives by the EU consultant and the representative of the German Foundation: How do you communicate with the central level to make the asked amendments to Law 59 to provide resources for the municipalities? How do you overcome the challenges and reach an agreement between the people of wercheffena and Zintan? How was it agreed? At what level?



Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

**Mr. Mustafa Al Barouni, the Mayor of Zintan Municipality**, intervened to answer some questions. He stressed that the state has stopped the decoupling powers because there is a great struggle for power and ministerial portfolios. If the competencies are transferred, the conflict will be eliminated. The decision maker in Libya is not convinced of the local government system. The situation will change only by taking over these powers.

**Mr. Faraj Aban, Mayor of Janzur**, said that the role of municipalities, from the beginning, together with the United Nations have participated in building peace processes and played some political roles. There is confidence to provide solutions from international organizations, although the problem is at the local level. For example, in Rojban city, a conflict was solved in just one dialogue session. We should not neglect the structures and organizations that can benefit Libya through the coaching and training, must shorten the distances and not to dispense with the international role.

On the other hand, **Mr. Ghali Ismail al-Tuwaini, member of the Alshura Council of Zwara Municipality**, stressed that the problem is political and not in the municipalities. There are three governments in Libya. These governments have confused the scene and ignited strife. He then asked: Are there any real contacts with these governments by the municipalities to unite the Libyan state and put the first step towards peace? Mr. Ghali also added that under this division there is no second structure except the municipality requirement of training in crisis resolution and formulation of projects.

## **Workshop 2: The Critical Role of Women in Peacebuilding, Mediation & Peace Processes in Libya**

The participants agreed that women play a central role in peacebuilding efforts, mediation and projects to increase stability in Libya. Women have many responsibilities and their role is highlighted during war and during peace. Women constitute half of the society, thus have the potential to have critical impact. Peace-building starts from the family, where they have an active role in renouncing violence and advocating peace. It was also observed that families had to be more careful in instilling the values of citizenship in the children.

The importance of the role of women in keeping peace in Libya has been stressed by purifying children's awareness of individual ambitions and encouraging women to establish a bridge between them. The term "extremism" was also considered as an enemy of the Libyans. It was tackled by saying "tolerance" by accepting the other, and by working to bring together to the dialogue table the different stakeholders.

The need to raise the standard of living of citizens through the work of the international community to unify the centers of sovereignty in Libya and to intensify the campaigns for the establishment of the Constitution, while ensuring the participation of women and youth, was also emphasized to make their vision clearer. As well as the demand for political and economic empowerment of women where women actively participate in building peace in Libya by entering many reconciliations and their presence as a member of specialized committees within the councils, such as the Dialogue and Reconciliation Committee.



"The Libyan women should be part of the peace-building process in Libya" said **Sana Keskesa from UN Women**. Otherwise, peace will not be achieved. She emphasized that the organization is now working to stop the conflict for some time, but cannot build peace on its own. This can be done "only by the Libyan people", according to Kaskasat. It was also noted that the peace processes are not limited to the political level only, but must be shared by everyone, especially those affected by conflicts.

Furthermore, the panel referenced women's participation in peace negotiations, and the mechanisms that ensure the success of these processes. Advisory committees consisting of women from different organisations and institutions can accompany peace processes from the early stages to the point of implementation on the ground. It should be noted that there has been no significant participation of women in FAO workshops since it is important that women be part of local communities with the need to participate in decision-making and to emphasize gender mainstreaming.

It is important to state the presence of the different age groups, young and old and to think about how to involve them without classifying them. Therefore, we must focus on working on gender equality. It is only a matter of selecting a certain category of women in the committees. There is also an unfairness in the choices and contributions. It is necessary to reconsider these options by the United Nations, with the emphasis on the participation of all from all cities. The United Nations must invite all women who can represent the women's voices.

The UNIFEM representative indicated that the United Nations is currently not physically permanent in Libya and focused on the need for women to participate in the forthcoming municipal elections by intensifying sensitization processes with women's participation in the election. She also confirmed that the organization is currently working on the national plan and on the role of civil society.

In addition, the Organization has an official peace-building delegation with technical and advisory expertise, working groups and is aware of various ways of promoting peace.

Reference was made to international laws, where it is noted that there is no national plan in Libya, reforms, or protection of women in conflicts with a complete absence of prevention and relief. There are no clear reforms from the government, parliament or the government of national agreement.

## Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

Some associations pointed out the absence of women in local councils in some cities in Libya, such as Zintan. For example, women are not represented in the municipal council because of customs and traditions, which is one of the main obstacles to peacemaking. The question of how women contribute to peacemaking and their image is still typical. The importance of women's intervention in social affairs, which is currently absent, was also emphasized.

Women play an important role in the process of bringing peace to Libya by working to put down arms, dismantle militias and keep them away from cities. To further activate their role, women in Libya demand the existence of a higher council for women in the constitution, the need to create programs to support them and the need for women to participate with men in the peace process by sensibilizing men about the role of women as citizens and not only as mothers.

There are some obstacles that limit the contribution of women in the process of peace, including Fatwas of Dar al-Ifta in Tripoli and the Ministry of Awqaf, which issued some harmful fatwas to women through religious platforms in addition to customs and traditions in Libya that limit the participation of women.

### **Workshop 3: Supporting Sub-National Peace Processes, Mediation & Peacebuilding in Libya**

In his intervention, **Mr. Manfred van Eckert**, from **The International Agency of the German Cooperation (GIZ)**, pointed out the importance of adopting peace indicators that help to choose the type of intervention to enhance security and peace. He also called for the support of political groups and the promotion of decentralization, which in turn promotes social cohesion and contributes to peace in Libya. He also stressed the need for dialogue on the integration of armed groups, especially dialogue with youth, as they represent the main group in the society. There is a need to support the role of youth, build their capacities, develop and improve their skills to participate in peace. Youth and decision makers must also be involved in the peace process.

The challenges facing the peace-building process in Libya are: building trust, bringing together the parties around a single table, listening and mutual respect. There have been distrust of peace process initiatives, which led to their failures.

Mr. Manfred believes that nation-building in Libya must start at the local level. Efforts must begin to stimulate the role of municipalities in decision-making and to promote the role of women in peace. Building the peace process from the bottom up ensures the participation of all parties in building peace and stability. No role for any party should be overlooked.

Therefore, this comprehensive approach, ensuring the participation of all parties in the peace process, can build the Libyan State and its institutions. Previous experiences have shown that services provided at a central level have been ineffective and meaningful.

Municipalities collect some simple funds but these funds do not enable them to assume all responsibilities and perform all services. So GIZ believes that its proposals are on multi-level approaches and calls for further strengthening the role of civil society and universities.

Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

In his intervention, **Dr. Rafea Tabib, expert in conflict resolutions in Libya**, said that the legitimacy must be built in a specific way to each State and building the State should be a Libyan-Libyan solution as Libyan society has its own way of representing the State and the legitimate practice. It is therefore necessary to find examples of the solution and the institution-building in Libya.

The expert believes that the solution must be through the reformulation of the Libyan society and building its State, and that peacemaking in Libya should be supported by the municipal councils and the revision of Law 59.

He also pointed out the need to diagnose the current Libyan reality where the Mayors and the local councils do not yet have executive powers. He also sees the need to establish the Association of Mayors to be a force of pressure, force of proposals and initiatives and it is therefore necessary to adopt different approaches: technical, social, political approaches... in the process of peace in Libya.



## **Plenary Session 2: Improving Peace Support for Libya**

**Dr. Arif Ennayedh, Chairman of the Libyan Institute of Advanced Studies**, stressed the importance of continuing efforts to achieve peace in Libya, where the peace process should be launched by the agreement of the Skhirat, which has achieved only 10 percent of its items. He explained that during the old regime, the centralization was largely concentrated in Libya. Therefore, the Skhirat agreement contained provisions for supporting local government because municipalities suffer from abhorrent centrality. In addition, the agreement devoted the role of women to the process of peace because women are not actively represented.

He also addressed the obstacles facing peace efforts, including a large accumulation of prisoners where there is no real solution or interest. Selective justice is also a form of injustice, since there must be no discrimination in justice.



Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

The national reconciliation currently adopted is a partial reconciliation and does not respect Libyan traditions of reconciliation. To improve the peace process, the Skhirat agreement, concerned with local governance and the role of women in bringing peace to Libya, must be launched.

**Ms. Enaam Al-Turki, member of the Tripoli Center Municipal Council**, pointed out the double responsibility of municipalities in providing services to citizens. There were attempts by municipalities to find alternative solutions because they played an important role in bringing peace and finding solutions to conflicts caused by armed conflict.

In addition, she emphasized the important role of women in supporting peace. It is therefore necessary to consult women in the process of achieving peace on the one hand, and to promote gender equality in support of peace on the other hand.

Ms. Al-Turki called for upholding the rule of law and legislation in order to promote justice and equality between the two sexes in Libya and further activate the participation of women in the development of the country.

There are three paths to achieving peace in Libya:

- The political path: beginning with the Skhirat agreement
- The social path: national dialogue stems from societal norms.
- Legal path: Laws (Transitional Justice Act and anti-terrorism laws).

She also states that the obstacles facing civil society to achieving stability in Libya are mainly:

- Organizational difficulties.
- Legal framework for the actions of civil society.
- Work at the municipal and citizen level.
- Conflicts where the role and actions of civil society is low.

As for **Ibrahim Al-Maqsabi, Executive Director of the Civil Society Commission**, he confirmed the crucial role of the Civil Society Commission, with its 28 branches at the level of the country in achieving peace in Libya, a tool for improving and advancing the peace process in Libya.

From his side, **Mr Aref Ayyad, The Libyan Institute for advanced Studies**, he pointed out that inclusiveness and exclusion are the best solution for peace and must learn from previous experiences. The correct description of the reality threatening social peace must also be carried out, as it is well known that the threats of peace in Libya have evolved and changed. On the other hand, it is necessary to adopt the standards of civil peace in the process of achieving peace in Libya.

He also pointed out the need to begin to limit the comprehensiveness of the affected group and individual and it is necessary to return to the State and State institutions where at some point the role of the State must be imposed.

Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme • برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

Among the solutions to the crisis in Libya is the social contract between the Libyans, which is a permanent way to achieve peace, and an agreement must be reached between the Libyans that there is no return to violence and conflict.

**Mr. Ahmad al-Lafi, a peace activist from Uberi**, pointed out that this stage is considered a strategic stage for achieving peace and that peace is achieved by building on the exploitation of the heritage. It is also done through the restructuring of peace structures and the creation of new social structures such as the Harabi Charter and the Agreement between Tuareg and the Tabu in the last 112 years ago. This experience is of great importance insofar as it emanates from the basic rules of society. There are also realistic and historical experiences in Libya that must be used to bring peace.

The main concern of the Libyan citizen today is establishing security and stability, which is currently hindered in Libya because of the proliferation of weapons on the one hand and the disinformation on the other hand. So, it is necessary to help reduce the spread of arms and help to calm the Libyan media. The Libyans must be gathered without exclusion or marginalization and discussion of the issue of prisoners, abductees and compensation.

Some of the obstacles to peace in Libya are the proliferation of weapons, the lack of spatial development, the lack of transitional justice, the Libyan media that spurs violence, political division and the struggle for power.

#### **Workshop 4: International Support to Peacebuilding & Mediation in Libya: The Role of Donors – Lessons Learned & Good and Bad Practices**

At the beginning of the workshop, several questions were raised, especially to the international cooperation institutions:

- What is your assessment of the current process in Libya? What is your approach, taking into consideration the complexity of the situation in Libya?
- What are the challenges you face as donors?
- Does the work you are doing meets the set goals?

**Dr. Neila Akrimi, General Director of CILG-VNGI**, presented the experience of the organization since 2011 and what follow it of significant improvement in many aspects and the decline of some other aspects, as well as the efforts of municipalities and local actors. She also emphasized that national division threatens stability at the local level. She also referred to the specificity of the program, which was characterized by its interrelationships with municipalities and local actors, such as youth associations and organizations.

The floor was then given to the representative of the European Union, who confirmed that they are the largest donor in Libya despite all the challenges, such as the absence of the institutional structure and the party to which they would be talking to, which led them to seek ways to adapt to all situations.



## Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

He also stressed that local authorities are the destination for assistance, so local capacities must be developed on a national scale to benefit from best practices.

As for the way of working, the representative of the European Union explained that the first mission did not have sufficient information about Libya, so the need to develop an in-depth understanding of the country, especially with the lack of information and knowledge about the specificities of Libyan society.

An initiative launched by an EU-backed institution in Zintan consists of visiting some European cities. Libyans have benefited from these experiences and such visits can be repeated and used again.

On the other hand, the representative of the **GIZ, Manfred van Eckert**, summarized the main challenges to be the remote management and the central character of the Libyan authorities. When providing development assistance, there should be a partner at the central level to reach the local level.

At the local level, the Agency deals with municipalities and provides training in planning and implementation of programs and priorities. Difficulties lie in the fact that the legal and legislative framework as it is insufficient to carry out the work of the Agency such as equipment, customs problem, estimated invoices and final bids. The challenge of implementation as the staff are unable to move into the field and to exert influence because of the complexities on the Libyan arena.

The floor was then given to a representative of another donor, who acknowledged that they were preparing a discussion in The Hague to try to help mapping out local governance. He also praised the important experiences in Libya, particularly with respect to conflict resolution. They also emphasized their efforts for a partnership programme to carry out research and field work with municipalities to collect data.

From her side, **Mrs. Darine Alhaj, North Africa Programme Manager of the United States Institute of Peace (USIP)**, said that they are coordinating with all parties and have experience since 2011, especially in Benghazi, in all matters related to research and studies, capacity building of civil society and field intervention. As for the available opportunities, the more they found unified institutions in Libya, the easier was working with them. The importance of local work lies in the great importance to listen to the concerns and interests of the Libyans.

The challenges lie in the political choices. The political situation is a major challenge because of the reality of the balance of power on the ground, poor coordination among the various parties, weak capacity of local actors and lack of local and national coordination.

Then the space was opened for discussion, where **Mr. Manfred van Eckert of the German Agency for Cooperation**, confirmed that in the presence of political division, we must communicate with the Mayors of the municipalities for the arrival of grants provided, as the municipality is the link between the citizen and the state.



Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

A civil activist from Benghazi expressed his surprise and bame for the donors who said after six years of working on Libya, they did not have sufficient information about the situation there. He also stressed that there was no need to leave Libya because there are many safe cities.

From his part, **Mr. Sulaiman Albayoudhi, civil society activist from Misrata**, said that there are projects that can be accomplished, but there are young people who do not want hold the logo of foreign countries and suggested the need to organize a national meeting.

Another civil society activist from Tripoli confirmed that the biggest challenge was mediation, since grants from the European Union and international organizations did not reach the beneficiary directly. Donors should select a group of associations for each municipality to deliver the grant or service to the beneficiary.

Then the representative of the GIZ intervened to reassure the attendees, pointing out that the organization will focus its efforts with the municipalities as the most legitimate and most important partner, will try to accelerate the capacity building in municipalities and reach it to the highest levels. He also stressed that the current municipal administration is not able to manage the projects granted by the organization. The procedures must be followed in organizing transactions, requesting bids and disbursing in transparent and documented ways. The projects can not be continued without this. The main objective is to support the municipalities to follow these approaches.

As for the quality of aid, there are small grants to municipalities. These grants are managed according to the strict procedures for traning and gaining experience. And to be able to give more, all stages must be followed. The organization also seeks to open a municipal bank account and must be a clear way of disbursement and financing.

From his part, a representative of the donors said that he understands the rejection of young people the issue of slogans, but a flexible approach can be established and will try to waive it. However, the decision to leave Libya was for security reasons after the bombing of Tripoli International Airport, which led to the assessment of the deteriorating security situation. They were not able to provide minimum protection for the staff, but hope is always there to go beyond it and work in real partnership.

The floor was then given to **Mr. Yassine Turki, CILG-VNGI Experts Team Leader for Libya**, who reviewed the challenges facing the local level. Most local administrations do not have a history of institutional communication, and there are no national institutions that helped the municipalities to establish them. Municipalities were established under a law, so it is therefore obligatory to strengthen the support for municipalities and the growing civil society in Libya. The cooperation programs are programs for two or three years, so at the end of the program there should be a team able to continue the work and the path.

### **Workshop 5: Addressing the Lasting Impacts of the War in Libya on Governance, Politics, Economics and Society – Charting Paths for Sustainable Peace & Recovery**

After a brief presentation on the importance of properly implemented reconciliation processes and the devastating impact of war on communities, participants were asked to establish four groups to determine the aftermath of the years of war in Libya.

The main observations of the groups are:

- Youth are at the center of armed violence for several reasons, such as the lack of access to financial income outside armed groups and the situation in which weapons are acquired.
- It will be difficult to change this situation in the absence of targeted disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs within Libya, and the continued dismantling of the social fabric as well as the flourishing and escalating traffic in human beings and weapons.
- The almost total absence of trust between groups and tribes contributes to the dismantling of the social fabric. One participant also noted that it would be very difficult to find a job if staff were recruited on the basis of tribal allegiance rather than their skills. Also, it is almost impossible to consider the government as fair and to give it confidence, knowing that the votes are the result of tribal loyalties rather than political programs.
- Women are not nearly as present in the public sphere as they should be. Violent conflict often increases gender distance by emphasizing certain roles in linking masculinity and authority to carrying weapons.

All these factors contribute to the weak investment in the national economy at the national and international levels, which in turn leads to the continuation of the situation as it is.

The proposed solutions to overcome this dilemma are increased investment in youth capacities, awareness of affirmative action for mediation and dialogue, as well as the negative consequences of violence using case studies, for example: Sierra Leone, Northern Ireland and Somalia. Finally, clearer support of women in leadership positions.



## **Workshop 6: Libyan Civil Society: Experiences, Challenges and Opportunities – A Vital Force for Peace in Libya**

**Mr. Remy Riemann, representative of ACTED**, emphasized the need to focus on local levels through local institutions such as municipalities, the assistance programs of international organizations, their activities in support of Libyan organizations, and reaching recommendations or requirements aimed at strengthening the Libyan civil society.

**Mr. Fathi Youssef, an Amazigh activist**, summarized the issue on that the work of the civil society organizations in Libya is no more than ineffective work attempts because their results are limited and this does not lead to any result. He also stressed that the lack of progress of reconciliation is due to human, military and religious reasons. The main reasons for the lack of reconciliation is the lack of agreement on naming the army and the constitution, which do not satisfy everyone, especially the Amazigh.

As for **Mr. Bassem Al-Ajili, lawyer and civil society activist from Benghazi**, pointed out that the reasons for the lack of reconciliation are due to regional and tribal reasons, which increase the social rift.

**Mr. Salem Al-Qamoudi, from STACO**, explained that the role of civil society is not limited to aid but to achieving social peace as the fifth authority.

As for **Jean Louis Romanet, an expert on Civil Society**, considered that the most important requirements at this stage is security and protection. Everyone must understand this concept. He also stressed that it is the actors on the ground who must respect human rights. He stressed that transparency by municipalities and setting priorities in a clear and proper manner is one of the real obstacles for donor countries, and the need to involve youth and women is important and vital.

The interventions of the audience summarized that the tribe was deliberately replaced the place of civil society. This is a clear negation. In addition, the Libyans should be regarded as a single nation without dropping any minority. The identity of Libya must be inclusive, Amazigh and Arabic are two languages in Libya and must included in the education system, religion carries an Islamic identity and renounces violence and extremism.

Summary of main conclusions, recommendations are as follows:

- Claim a training program that includes:
  - How to involve young people and women in public life and at the municipal level, training should be provided in most municipalities and according to the possibilities.
  - A training program that takes into consideration the Libyans as a single nation without neglecting any minorities (Arabs, Amazigh, Tabu and Touareg) should be developed.

Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

- Consolidate national speech and frame religious and intellectual speeches so as to respect the belief on the one hand and promote the language of tolerance and dialogue among all Libyans on the other hand.
- The training program should include the role of media in national reconciliation.
- Establishing a network of young civil activists to work for peace and spread the idea at the level of Libya through municipalities and civil society institutions and to face any form of decline and weakness of the security situation caused by the intervention of external actors
- To clarify the extent to which Libyan society has benefited from international organizations and how to communicate with these organizations.

The conclusion of this workshop is : accumulated experience is imperative and useful, and challenges are an important source of future reconciliation and deserve to be discussed at any future meeting, whether regionally or internationally.

### Summary of the First Day

**Mr. Kai Brand Jacobsen** referred to a number of conclusions on the first day, the most important of which are:

- The peace-building effort must be inclusive and must include and involve all parties. All partners and actors must be involved. There is recognition of the primary role of municipalities, civil society, tribes and traditional structures.
- Women must be involved at all stages of the peace process in Libya and women's participation in all economic, social and municipal processes must be strengthened.
- Sustainable peace is an urgent need for Libyan society. Sustainable peace requires patience. Everyone must recover from the remnants of war and go to real reconciliation.
- It is necessary at this stage to think about building peace after the war. The end of the war could lead to the absence of peace in the absence of the peace process.
- In addition, the culture of peace and acceptance of the other must be mainstreamed, as there are many models of national reconciliation in Libyan history and there are many statements in the desire for peace.
- It is also well noted that there is a great challenge to living in peace in Libya. It is necessary to build a culture of peace to support a true peace and involve all components of Libyan society. The challenges lie in governance and the participation of all actors as well as the reform of security and the constitution. There is an urgent need in Libya for economic development and the creation of economic opportunities for all.
- One of the challenges facing Libya is the transfer of powers from the central level to the regional and local levels, ie to the municipalities. It should also respond to the aspirations of the Libyan people.
- The media in Libya is considered one of the important components of the conflict. The role of media should be improved and must spread the culture of peace to advance the peace process. It is noteworthy that there is a great desire of the public and fundamental sectors of Libyan society to bring peace to Libya, so the development of peace building in Libya should be developed by the Libyans themselves.

Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

- Municipalities play an important role in building peace, so the international community plays a role in listening to municipalities and helping to bring peace. Civil society and municipalities in Libya can not only be a tool for policy implementation, but as a locomotive and a tool for peace in Libya.

### **Plenary Session 3: Achievements of the Libya Local Governance & Stabilisation Programme**

**Mr. Yassine Turki, CILG-VNGI Experts Team Leader for Libya Experts Team Leader for Libya,** pointed out that there was a desire of all parties to work together such as municipalities, tribal elders, civil society and activists who were making great efforts to bring peace to the local level. At the same time, working approaches must be developed and international support must be mobilized for the sustainability of work.

It is well noted that there is a close link between the establishment of the actual local government in Libya and the stability, where the municipalities have the legal legitimacy to provide services to the Libyan citizen and plays other roles in conflict resolution and crisis containment. From here, it is necessary to support the municipalities with the competencies, capabilities and people who can work, since stability in Libya is not a purely security issue, but includes other titles. The needs are great for municipalities because they are in the process of being established, therefore they should be supported and coached.

One of the main objectives of the municipalities is to develop municipal work management, improve municipal service delivery, enhance civil society participation in local life and prevent conflict. The methods and activities are related to training, mentoring and capacity-building.

Reconciliation should include the local and regional dimensions by developing the capacities of municipalities, civil society organizations and local and international activists in resolving and containing disputes and conflicts. There is a close link between local reconciliation and the peace process in Libya.







Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

Mr. Yacine Ben Chikha, **CILG-VNGI Libya Program Manager**, emphasized the role played by the the International Center for Innovative Local Governance, where the CILG-VNGI is betting on the role of civil society organizations, municipalities and local actors in achieving peace in Libya.

**Mr. Kai Brand Jacobsen, PATRIR**, and many mediation experts, conducted a number of training sessions. Financial support was provided to some municipalities and associations to assist in mediation and fieldwork with the different actors. The floor was then referred to present the successful experiences in the process of mediation and peace in Libya.

In his intervention, **Mr. Mohamed Snam, Mayor of the municipality of Wazen**, pointed out that there is a qualitative shift in municipal work after cooperation with VNG like the agreement to re-open the border crossing debiba - wazen, which was assisted by CILG-VNG program, aims at social peace, trade exchange, the possibility of providing direct and indirect jobs, as well as facilitating transit to Libya and supporting cooperation between Libya and Tunisia. There is also a 5-hectare economic zone in the area to be adopted, aimed at providing workplaces and reducing smuggling. The Libyan-Tunisian Border Cooperation Office was established and is functioning.

As for **Ahmed Amtawaa, Municipal council of the municipality of Nalut**, he confirmed that the meetings and coaching done by CILG-VNGI has helped in developing a strategic vision, the workshops helped bring together the heads of security departments. Therefore, the rapprochement between the Directorate of Security and the municipality is very necessary. VNG has contributed significantly to the success of the process of developing a strategic vision through joint work between the security and the military institutions to ensure security and peace.

As the municipal council is the supporter of this process, **Mr. Amtawaa** recommended the need to raise awareness and educate students about security in schools and institutes.

Another achievement of the Programme is the joint drafting and accompanying the signing of Reconciliation and Good Neighboring Charters. During meetings, the challenges to reconciliation were identified, especially in the problems of communication. A draft charter covering the entire region from Gharyan to Ghadames was also drawn up. There are several recent reconciliation projects, such as the one between Jadu and Zintan, and between Zawiya and Wercheffana, and the result is the opening of the coastal road. The principle of good neighborliness was also adopted in the city of Wercheffana, which contributed to the reconciliation process.

Many peace initiatives have been adopted, including the Wercheffana Peace Initiative and the Crime Prevention Initiative in the region of Wercheffana.

The goal of reconciliation in Libya is peace, harmony and conciliation. Therefore, comprehensive national reconciliation is necessary. The message of national reconciliation for civil society organizations should be adopted, added **Murad Fheed, peace activist from Wercheffana**.



## Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

The experience of the southern region has also been presented where joint work was carried out within the South Foundation for Peace between all the southern Libyan parties to establish peace. The South Peace Foundation work to achieve the set goals and reforms despite the difficulties of work. One of the problems facing the South Peace Foundation is the low level of work of civil society organizations and the intervention of war traders who seek to continue conflicts and wars.

It can be said that the experience of mediation and peacemaking is not easy and training and joint actions for peace must be strengthened. Training sessions and workshops have contributed to the establishment and restoration of peace in the South.

The experience of Rwanda and Northern Ireland is a good example of the ability to go beyond war and build social peace, where capacity development and awareness are a key factor in stability.

**Mr. Sulaiman Al-Bayoudi, a civil society activist from Misrata**, pointed out that the project of engagement in national reconciliation is a key factor in bringing peace to Libya. VNG has contributed to the activation and success of some local reconciliation. He also indicates that it is necessary to work on understanding the new social demography in Libya as well as social mobility.

He also noted that there is a project of reconciliation between Misurata and Benghazi that is not yet complete and needs support, as well as the restructuring of the social structure and the removal of political problems.

### **Workshop 7: Youth Peacebuilding Programming in Libya & Supporting Libyan Youth Peace Efforts**

Throughout the duration of the Forum, it became clear that participants from all parts of Libyan society acknowledged the pivotal role youth plays for the future of their country. In various workshops and plenary sessions, youth was mentioned as providing an important perspective on the ongoing violence.

Notables and representatives from civil society alike empathised with the difficult position Libyan youth are in, often either forced to choose to live without income or choose to join an armed group. These groups have very different characteristics, some follow a political ideology whereas others are being formed to secure areas, but they all offer a source of income in a country that is otherwise suffering from an economic crisis. But joining an armed group or movement comes with a price.

Attendants recognised that in the absence of possibilities for young people to generate income and meaningful partake in the economy, there appears to be no real incentive to disengage from armed groups.

A meaningful peace process can therefore not work without a *Disarmament, Disengagement and Reintegration* procedure. This perception appeared to be shared by most of the representatives of international NGOs attending the Forum.

## Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

But youth are more than victim or perpetrator. Very often, young people are actors of positive change in their communities, on a regional or even national level. In 2015, youth actively called for the settlement of hostilities Libya-wide, contributing to the outcome most notably in the Nafusa mountains, in what became known as the *Libyan Social Dialogues*. Their efforts led to a meeting of 40 Libyan elders and notables in Tunisia, resulting in the re-establishment of contacts and communication as well as the release of prisoners.

Youth can often bypass traditions and historic grievances, that elder generations feel bound to live by. Yet their work is often made difficult by an absence of trust into their abilities, or a misunderstanding of intentions.

To support youth-led peacebuilding efforts in Libya, national and international actors should actively look to engage in partnerships with youth, and support them to develop their strengths and address their weaknesses. In a recent global survey among 399 youth peacebuilding organisations, among other from Libya, it was showcased that youth-led peacebuilding initiatives are often lacking the technical and general capacities to engage as efficiently as possible.

Given that youth are the stakeholders that not only are overproportionally affected by the ongoing violence, but also will live the longest with the consequences of it, it is only fair to support them in making a lasting change.

Some of the most important results of this workshop were:

- A consensus that Libyan youth are among the most affected by war and violence in the country, but are also key actors in Libya's future.
- The need to involve young people in various mediation and peace processes as they are the main driver of all initiatives on the ground and their ability to adapt, communicate and resolve conflicts.
- Youth are the hope for the future of Libya

### **Workshop 8: local reconciliation agreements in Libya since 2011**

The workshop was opened by **Mr. Mustafa Abdel Kabir, expert in mediation**, stressed the need to focus on reconciliation, find out the achieved successes and the reasons for failures and the necessity to learn from previous experiences.

As for **Mrs. Mona Hadia, Municipal councillor of Elkhoms City**, she highlighted several experiences within her city/ municipality, which contributed positively to the local level. She referred to some examples such as the establishing of the Negotiating and Conflict Resolution Council, the Coexistence and Peaceful Settlement Agreement, the Khoms Festival, the initiative "Youth of the Khoms", upon which emerged from the program of youth dialogue, and contributed to the provision of service solutions programs in the sectors of health and hygiene. Such initiatives has won the trust and the support of the citizens.

**Mr. Jean Louis, the expert on Civil Society in Libya**, stated that there is some success and many failures in mediation and agreements, especially in the cities of Al-Zawia, Benghazi and Tripoli. He stressed that the intervention of local and international mediators is necessary, but the problem is that most mediators do not have enough time or the skills to analyze the origin of the conflict.

**Mr. Hisham Alwindi, a civil activist**, stressed that the reasons for the futility of reconciliations are due to the absence of the project of building the State or the identity. The conflict took an ethnic and religious dimension and the tribe contributed to that by replacing the collapsed state. He also referred to the positive role of women and youth in resolving some conflicts.

As for **Mrs. Fatima Shalbak**, a lawyer and Amazigh activist from Nalut, she listed several reconciliation agreements, all of them were unsuccessful because the treatment was temporary and the people implementing the agreements were not effective, in addition to the fact that all rejected transitional justice. She concluded by saying that only narrow personal initiatives had worked, but the major main agreements did not work.

The participants agreed that the absence of the State and the miss use of religion and doctrine as an element of conflict, the role of fighters on the ground and the lack of the real will to peace is one of the most important factors of the failure of local reconciliation agreements in most cities of Libya.

The interventions of the audience summarized that the lack of research on the roots of the problems, most of the media channels and religious platforms, the passive role of the tribe, the presence of more than one reconciliation initiative for the same problem had a negative impact of the reconciliation initiatives.

Key findings and recommendations were as follows:

- The elders, wise men, women and youth have a very limited role in the initiatives and reconciliation agreements. To be actively involved in activities, such as training programs in negotiation skills, communication skills, conflict resolution and special protection, especially in southern Libya, is highly required.
- Qualifying the mediators with training programs and providing them with expertise in resolving conflicts, and providing sufficient time to work (full time) during the intervention to resolve any conflict.
- Provide international training to the municipal police to defend itself first and be able to implement any reconciliation agreement at the level of the municipality or between neighboring municipalities.
- Assist municipalities to draft a charter on good governance for reconciliation at the local or national level.
- The challenges are great. In order for reconciliation to succeed, it is necessary to establish a national State or constitution for local governance, without exploiting religion and doctrine as a component of disagreement and to conduct training programs that support this trend, taking into account the obvious privacy of Libyan society.

Reconciliation agreements should be reviewed in the future at local, regional or international levels.



### **Workshop 9: Lessons learned in Libya– identifying & sharing good practices, bad practices and recommendations for improving peace support in Libya Main Courses**

Participants summarized good practices and bad practices in support of peace in Libya and developed guidelines for Libyan and international actors involved in mediation and peace building.

Good practices are:

- Intervene in early stages of conflicts to prevent violence.
- Deal with experts in this field, avoid dealing with amateurs.
- Focus on the future, not the past when engaging the conflicting parties in dialogue.
- Examine the situation on the ground before implementing any plan and think about potential obstacles before engaging in implementation.
- Ensure transparency, so that partners know at all times involved in the project and processes.
- Be courageous enough to admit made mistakes and able to apologize for mistakes.
- Invite all key stakeholders to participate in the effort. At the same time, people who do not have influence should not be invited.
- Develop a comprehensive dispute resolution methodology.
- Work to sustain peace efforts.
- Develop a bottom-up working methodology that focuses on rebuilding confidence among Libyans.
- Allow flexibility in programming so that conflict dynamics can be addressed correctly and immediately. Also, flexibility should be established with donors early so that the project does not stop when the change is made.
- Ensure the continuous monitoring and evaluation of all activities and also prior to implementation (pre-evaluation).
- Intervene only when the conflict is ripe for intervention.
- Monitor activities.
- Establish a warehouse or a building for peace building available to all and avoid duplication of effects.
- Train Libyan experts.

Bad practices are:

- Reliance on VIPs from tribes that are part of the conflict without training.
- Public officials' interventions may make these people worse.
- Improvisation is bad, and there should be a systematic approach to conflict resolution.
- Involve warlords in political solutions.
- The marginalization and exclusion of young people.
- Lack of good monitoring.
- Absence of peace operations in Libya.

- Assume that the other is in bad faith for negotiations or mediation.
- There is no coordination between actors, international circles and Libyans alike.
- Adherence to activities regardless of reality on the ground to satisfy donors.
- Non diversify of sources of information.

### **Workshop 10: Opportunities & Challenges Facing Peacebuilding in Libya**

**Dr. Neila Akrimi**, said that ensuring ownership of the Libyan initiative is a guarantee of success. **Dr. Arif Al-Nayid** think that the issue of ownership is divided into two parts: management and funding. As for management, Libyans should be in charge. In terms of funding, the source of funds and expenditure should be determined.

It can be said that there is no problem in terms of management (making peace) and they it was proved it many times. Young people are able to make the necessary arrangements. The problem of funding is an old one. In the 1970s, all institutions and companies were nationalized and private capital was destroyed. In the post-seventies period, it was the period of socialism that produced a group of corrupted wealthy people who were State employees.

The period from February 17 until now is a very large period of corruption. Corruption is widespread in large sectors (currency, imports, military issue ...). The most dangerous type of corruption is the corrupted money. This money will have a political future and will be very influential on it. Therefore, a certificate of discharge should be submitted before the election and there must be a declaration of the owned funds and assests.

Dr Arif al-Nayid, through the studies conducted by the Libya Institute for Advanced Studies, think that granting money should not be conditional on loyalty to the donor and the purpose of the assistance should be the homeland. Economic accountability must also be put for all candidates, and there must be ratification and transparency before the elections. Questions like where do you get money from? what condition for the owners of these funds? should be asked.

It is well noted that the purely Libyan initiatives have a great deal of confidence from the civil society. Therefore, civil society must be mobilized and the role of youth must be strengthened. The private sector must also be involved in the peace process because it is of great importance. The private sector in Libya has no culture yet of assisting civil society organizations.

As for **Mr. Yousef Ibderi, Mayor of the municipality of Ghariane**, he pointed out that the timing of the reconciliation and the reconciliation efforts are considered in the starting period and must be supported. It is necessary to move quickly from the stage of the conflict to the stage of citizenship. Also, it should be taken into consideration that this stage is temporary. Then will be the stage of stability, institution building and the participation of all Libyans in building the Constitution and institutions.

One of the challenges facing the Libyans is to ease the differences between the citizens and the government. In addition, the government believes that at the current stage, the municipalities constitute a barrier between the government and the people. However, the government do not have a vision to activate the municipalities and allocates powers and justice. The real

Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

representation must be competencies, not affiliation, as the government must be a government of programs and not of affiliations.

The role of media is crucial in Libya, but there is not a media action plan which led to the stage of treachery. Therefore, the systematic media war must be stopped and media monitoring should be established, and should not lead to sedition.

The issue of timing in the peace process in Libya is very important. It is necessary to move quickly to the stage of law and institutions, and the rights and duties of citizens must be equal in all areas of Libya. In addition, guarantees must be put in place to make the path go well.

The purpose of mediation is to establish and build peace on sound foundations. Therefore, the interlocutor emphasizes the importance of the Libyan process, where disclosure is considered half of the solution. It is also necessary to work on the commonalities between the Libyans, which link them to each other because the external influences are opposed to the concept of Libyan ownership on the one hand, and Libyan ownership is not currently filled on the other hand.

Other challenges include external intervention and support from foreign countries, where the division of regions can be seen as a loyalty to foreign countries that motivate actors in Libya. Considerable duplication of government performance can be observed between rhetoric and reality. It is also necessary to find a solution to the armed formations where the security concern is still the first concern of the Libyans through the restructuring of state institutions in Libya as the current rampant corruption in Libya is very large and must be fought.

The bases of success in the peace process in Libya are reconciliation and national initiatives as well as spatial development in the safe areas as a model for other regions and the dissemination of a culture of peace, in addition to diagnosing the current reality in Libya as it is, especially the fight against corruption.

**Mrs. Darine Alhaj, from the USIP**, stated that among the lessons learned from the work in Libya:

- The diagnosis and solutions come from the Libyans themselves.
- Neutralize national interests over foreign interests;
- Building a social pact must be a legitimate choice.
- Joint responsibility between international organizations and Libyans in selecting mediators.
- Identification of regional and local scales.
- Investment in State cadres.
- Participation of all active Libyan parties.

As for challenges, they are:

- fighting corruption,
- neutralization,
- unemployment,
- investment in people and institutions.

**Mr. Mustafa Al Barouni, the Mayor of Zintan Municipality**, pointed out that the conspiracy theory is not correct and can not be considered the main cause of the crisis in Libya. By diagnosing the Libyan situation, it is possible to say that the Libyan problem is internal between the Libyans themselves. It must be questioned at this difficult stage on how to get out of this situation? As it is a purely Libyan problem.

There is also an important role for the international organizations and the United Nations in helping the Libyans get out of the crisis. There is a willingness of the Libyans to accept foreign intervention and the complexity of the general situation. Corruption also represents the great problem in Libya and has reached most of the structures of the Libyan state. Corruption is also widespread in the period of chaos and has spread in Libya in a very large way, although it was one of the causes of the uprising. Corruption is an old problem and has widespread very much today and a national campaign to raise awareness of these concepts is required as the current Libyan reality is dominated by conflict and civil war.

Despite all the mentioned above, we must be optimistic about the future of Libya because it is the only factor of success to build the future. The real diagnosis must be made because it is the solution in Libya and confidence must be built, as it is the basic solution. On the other hand, it is necessary to identify the Libyan parties: the conflicting parties, the non-conflicting parties and the activation of initiatives and solutions in the dialogue between the different parties.

**Mr. Fahmi Boukhreis, Libya Center for Strategic Studies**, pointed out that the media channels play a major role in fueling the conflict in Libya, but should not be generalized on all media in Libya. Media is a double-edged sword: it can fuel conflict or calm it. Media can contribute to building peace with neutrality and professionalism.

The social pact was formulated through a three-year community-wide dialogue in all Libyan cities and outside Libya to combat the rupture of the social fabric in Libya that took place after February 17 and fueled the conflict. This social pact aims to meet the challenges of building Libya and peaceful coexistence among all components of Libyan society. Therefore, the challenge is great for the Libyans, the regional countries and the international community to establish peace to Libya.

Most important recommendations of this workshop are:

- The need to support the army against ISIS and Al-Qaeda.
- The importance of developing a charter for media professionals to contribute to peace.
- Talking about peace means talking about the rights and duties of Libyan citizens.
- Cultural and community components in Libya must be respected in the same way as the Amazigh, Tabu and Tuareg. For example, the Amazigh demands a number of rights, the most important of which is the Amazigh language (the rights aspect), the naming the Libyan Arab Army: the status of the Amazigh (military side) Ibadī (religious). A Libyan Arab nation must be recognized for Amazigh, Arab, Tuareg and Tabu.
- The necessity to support the results of the forum and invest on them.
- Peace efforts should continue in Libya.



Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

- Welcome all initiatives of the Libyan municipalities.
- Salute all the efforts made during the forum to bring the views closer and bring peace to Libya.
- Peacebuilding in Libya should be within all the Libyan society components.

### **Workshop 11: Addressing Radicalisation & Violent Extremism: Evidence-based & Peacebuilding Approaches**

Interventionists pointed out that extremism is due to many reasons, the most important of which is the religious speech, where there is a stagnation in the religious discourse. The speech is not updated and repeated from old speeches, which puts people in religious conflicts.

Another reason is the insidious religious discourse on the Arab Maghreb, an extremist discourse. After people lived for hundreds of years, Maliki and Asharite discourse and mysticism based on moderate faith, they are now facing radical religious trends.

It can also be noted that there are those who want to engage some officials and sheikhs in this religious conflict. Therefore, the interlocutors demanded an intermediate speech on the approach of the former scholars, which is based on the observance of the major priorities and purposes of Islamic law.

It can also be said that the United Nations has a major role in the prevention of violent extremism, and many organizations working on human rights are at great risk from extremists.

**Mr. Kai Brand Jacobsen of PATRIR** noted that the support for municipal authorities contributes to peace support, and part of the EU is working to implement the largest part of organized crime. What we are doing today does not make much difference. I have a lot of experience, for example: "boko Haram al-terrorism" and my experiences in Syria and Iraq, even though the coalition force had mistakes and killings, but if we want to deal with these problems we need a bigger understanding of the problems.

Mr. Brand Jacobsen explained the EU's program in the peace process in Libya: the need to establish security and combat violent extremism, as well as engage the involved parties in working together against these groups and develop programs to target people and places of health.

The establishment of peace in Libya lies not only in laying down arms but also in building a society that goes beyond conflicts.

### **Workshop 12: Protecting Libyan Peace Activists: Addressing the safety and security of those working for peace in Libya**

**Mr. Salem Al-Akeak, Director of the Crossing Borders at Ras Al-Jadir from the Libyan side**, confirmed that the borders are very important issue because it is closely related to the security of peace activists and the protection of those working in the peace process. It is necessary to create many training programs especially in the management of crises. It is also

necessary to review some of the experiences that have been implemented on the ground, such as campaigning in schools and training courses on the basics of crisis management to benefit from the scientific side and on the other hand change congestion.

**Then the human rights activist, Mr. Mustapha Abdul Kabir**, intervened and began his intervention by defining the term civil activist as the peace activist has non-profit goal. His only goal is to achieve results. Other civil society activists do not go through the same situations. They are always exposed to risks and move in a minefield. Once they arrive, each party accuses them of being loyal to the other party. He also pointed out that the situation in Libya is complex as the civil activist in Libya operates without protection and in areas of tension, even if the protection is sometimes provided for himself using his own relations, they need special support in terms of training and dealing with crises. Since 2011, Libya has witnessed many kidnappings of civilian activists.

Then the floor was given to **Ms. Siham Hameed, a university professor**, who started by introducing the activist in the field of peace from a social point of view, as all those who work for progress and freedom and stop the destruction. He is therefore the seeker of realistic solutions to the conflict. She also considered that the peacemaker is the one who changes the public opinion on the peaceful side and pressure the leaders in this direction.

On the other hand, illiterate women and the girl child can be a peacemaker in her home by handing over the weapons in the house to the security authorities, while the tools for making peace can be through the media, civil society, leaders and Mayors of the municipalities. She also stressed the need to refrain accusations against peace activists and must put a hand on the disease and stop the methods of treason, which is one of the most difficult charges that contribute to inciting public opinion and fueling for the service of others.

As for the approaches used in Libya to protect peace activists, they are not safe because it depends on the use of militias in return for money. Peace activists are the ones who have made it financially viable. The second approach is the use of weapons where he turns from a peace activist to a gunman. The third approach is to escape or remain silent.

Many questions were raised such as: how can we protect ourselves during moral, military and social anarchy? How to avoid suspicion? how to achieve neutrality and transparency in the survey of information?

A representative of the Libyan Center for Press Freedom stressed the need to wait before each work and study all the steps, must work to assess the risks before and after each step. He also stressed that there are armed groups under the guise of the government, which are in fact armed militias, which restrict journalists and accuse activists of false accusations. Many journalists have been kidnapped and tortured. For example, blogger Ashraf al-Zein is one of the most acclaimed atheists and secularists in his defense for women and freedom of belief.

### **Plenary Session 4: A Dialogue on Peace, Coexistence and Recovery in Libya**

The main conclusions of the session were:

- The necessity to engage all parties in dialogue and not just one party, so everyone should be included in the speech without exception.
- In the absence of institutions and lack of competencies, it is necessary to develop competencies and work on institution building.
- The political divide in Libya increases the conflict as well as the media which has a significant impact on fueling conflicts.
- There is an absence of interest in the psychological aspect of society, especially the young group after the war.
- The meetings held in Libya are compliments. It is necessary to question how to rebuild the state and institutions by involving all Libyans in building the state.
- Lack of trust between the municipal council and society and the municipal council and women.
- The problem of Libyan-Libyan dialogue lies in who sits and who represents the Libyans within the national dialogue. We must start from the principles of public dialogue, which are united Libya, fighting corruption and fighting terrorism.
- Social problems are now greater than political conflict.
- The prospects for peace are law enforcement, strengthening security institutions, prisons and reform as well as the rule of law: they must be strengthened and developed.

### **Closing Session of the Forum: Results, Proposals and Ways to Advance Peacebuilding at the Local Level**

**Mrs. Nasreen Ben Amer**, the civil society activist from Benghazi, pointed out the need to benefit from this forum and stressed the importance of accepting the other and accepting all the actors to each other for peace.

On the other hand, she pointed out that fruitful cooperation between the municipalities can be a key player towards the establishment of peace in Libya, but it is necessary to clear the vision of peace between the Libyans to unite efforts.

The floor was then given to the **Mayor of Wazen, Mr. Mohamed Snam** who stressed that the conflicts are not rooted in Libya and that they will end soon if everyone has the will. He also said that there is great optimism for peace, which achieves spatial and sustainable development in Libya.

As for **Mr. Mustafa Al Barouni, the Mayor of Zintan Municipality**, he linked the success of the peace process to the need to overcome differences between the Libyans and to forget the tribal divisions and work for a single homeland where citizenship is the basis for bringing together the Libyans to build a modern civil state that can be inherited for future generations.

The initiatives are still under shadow and have not been properly supported by the international parties. The crisis in Libya is political, security and economic, which necessarily means the



## Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

absence of the prestige of the State. The current problems in Libya lies in the continuation of fighting and clashes, the spread of corruption, the prevalence of hatred and hostility, tension, etc ... This means the multiplicity of problems in the Libyan reality and thus impede the state from achieving its objectives.

The different faces of of current crises in Libya such as cash liquidity, garbage, sanitation, education ... expose the State entity to the risk of violence and total fragmentation. Therefore, points of agreement must be preferred to the points of disagreement in finding a solution for peace. One of the points of agreement is the lack of population, common history and ties of descent. Reconciliation is the best solution as a governing principle and as a solution to all of Libya's problems.

The meetings such as this forum are part of the solution in the peace process in Libya and efforts must be strengthened for reconciliation and social rapprochement. The current situation in Libya is in the right direction and it must be supported, as well the activation of the role of municipalities, where heir roles in resolving problems starts to appear.

Despite the multiplicity of causes of conflict such as the struggle for wealth, the struggle of influence, etc... it is necessary to use the general rules to resolve the crisis, including analysis of the crisis, its dismantling and then find solutions. The situation in Libya is a post-earthquake after 2011. It is necessary to create a national project where the Libyan citizen finds himself in through dialogue, which is considered a successful solution if the appropriate conditions exist. The international dialogue focused on political dialogue and neglected the community and security dialogue.

This forum aims at national reconciliation, where Libya could succeed if there is confidence among the actors.

One of the main points in the community dialogue is the need to brainstorm ideas with the international actors and the need to have a constitutional pot in Libya as well as work with civil society and the community components for national reconciliation and unity of Libyan soil and national unity.

The main objective is to stop armed conflict, push forward the national reconciliation and reject terrorism and extremism. In return, economic and social development must be supported by the possibility of creating a peaceful consensus solution in Libya.

The situation can be described after February as a major social rift. This social rift has been addressed in a temporary manner and the role of the media is very important for the recovery and coexistence of the effects of the war in Libya. These meetings are also the first building blocks for the acceptance of the other side and the establishment of peace.

The forum represents a space for the exchange of experience, listening to each other and building through unlimited generosity. A new role must be given to peace-building in Libya. The Forum also seeks to identify weaknesses in order to make recommendations for addressing them.

The different results of the Forum could be summarized as follow:

Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Programme ▪ برنامج دعم الحكم المحلي والاستقرار في ليبيا

- The change comes in creating initiatives to bring peace
- The national movement for Libya is a national duty for all local actors.
- The dialogue of generations must also be strengthened through dialogue between young people and the elderly, between sheikhs and women.
- It is essential that young people play a large and leading role in the coming stage. It is noticeable that young people seek recognition and self-affirmation.
- The experience of Sabratha is a good example of the peace process, which was through the medical convoy, the Ambassadors of Peace Initiative and the Generation Dialogue Forum and the project of the inclusion of armed groups in social life.
- Local reconciliation work led by municipalities, civil society organizations and sheikhs can achieve tangible results on the ground, contain conflicts and improve the living conditions of citizens.
- National reconciliation can not overcome all conflicts in Libya in a radical way and is part of an integrated process.

The objectives of the Forum have been achieved:

1. Highlighted local initiatives for reconciliation in Libya with a very high level of media coverage.
2. Mobilized international support for local initiatives has been achieved by presenting more than 40 initiatives in the workshop of Actors - Donors
3. Supported the peaceful course in Libya by deepening peace efforts, which has been with the presence of many actors in Libya.

It is for the first time that the local issue was discussed in that way. The principles of dialogue were respected and the objectives of the international forum were achieved.

The challenge is great for Libyans, regional countries and the international community to bring peace to Libya. Therefore, it is necessary to establish a charter for media professionals to contribute to peace and talk about peace. It is about the rights and duties of the Libyan citizen. The cultural and societal components of Libya must be respected: Amazigh, Tabu and Tuareg, the rights side: Amazigh language as well as the military side: naming the Libyan Arab army: What is the status of Amazigh? And the religious aspect: Ibadi doctrine?

In addition, a Libyan nation should be recognized: Amazigh, Arab, Tuareg and Tabu. The results of this forum should be supported and invested. Peace support efforts will continue in Libya and all initiatives from the Libyan municipalities are welcome. The efforts exerted during the forum to bring the views closer, bring peace to Libya and build peace with all the components of Libyan society have been highly appreciated.