



**CAIRO INSTITUTE  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES**  
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme  
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

**Human Rights Council 22nd Session**

**Item 10: General Debate**

**Oral Intervention**

**Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)**

**20 March 2013**

**Delivered by: Paola Salwan Daher**

**Thank you, Mr. President**

CIHRS commends the Libyan government for presenting draft resolution A/HRC/22/L.12 at this session on technical assistance provided to Libya in the field of human rights. This resolution demonstrates a commitment to addressing human rights challenges in Libya, as will be required to ensure that the country moves toward democracy and respect for human rights.

CIHRS remains concerned about the human rights situation within Libya, especially as human rights violations continue to be committed by armed militias in the name of the revolution. Those responsible for such violations should not be granted impunity; rather, the Libyan government should investigate and prosecute perpetrators to ensure rule of law.

The process of reforming legislation in Libya should be rooted in a human rights-based approach. Laws pertaining to freedom of association, freedom of expression, and the right to peaceful assembly and protest should be in conformity with international standards. The role of human rights defenders and of non-governmental organizations in maintaining an independent and dynamic civil society should be publicly acknowledged by the government. It is crucial that the government adopt a collaborative stance towards human rights defenders and NGOs and interact with them as partners in supporting Libya throughout its transition phase. Moreover, women should be fully included in the process of drafting the new constitution. The creation of clear laws protecting against discrimination must be seen as a highest priority for the new government.

We encourage the Libyan government to further its collaboration with the OHCHR, especially with regards to the reporting on the human rights situation in Libya.