Mr President,

On behalf of CIHRS and Libyan NGOs¹ we welcome the extension of the mandate of the Fact-Finding Mission on Libya. However, we express deep concern that the current draft resolution submitted to this Council once again provides for an abbreviated operational time frame of nine months, instead of the usual 12 months period for such mandates.

We are dismayed that the current resolution explicitly rejects the possibility for the renewal of the mandate of the Fact-Finding Mission beyond a 9-month period. A break from usual practice that contradicts with this Council’s duty to judge mandate extensions based on a careful assessment of the human rights situation in the country and the needs on the ground.

By creating an abbreviated time frame and pre-emptively dismissing the possibility of renewing the FFM’s mandate - the resolution before this Council will be sending a dangerous message to militias, mercenaries and other armed groups that the international community lacks the political will required to carry out a sustained and serious effort to ensure accountability for past and ongoing war crimes and other serious violations of international law committed in Libya.

For these reasons we urge member states of the Human Rights Council to reconsider this dangerous approach and work to ensure the Fact Finding Mission on Libya or an alternative mechanism is created that sufficiently responds to the urgent need to protect victims and end impunity for serious violations of international law.

Failure to do so will only encourage more violence and hamper efforts to ensure a sustainable peace is achieved.

Thank you.

¹ This statement is delivered with the support of the Defender Centre, Lawyers for Justice in Libya (LFJL), The Libyan Platform, and Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF).