

Delegation from
Libya

Represented by
ESSEC Business School

Position Paper for the General Assembly Third Committee

The topics before the General Assembly Third Committee are: Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies; Preventing Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity; Promoting Rights and Strengthening Protections for Older Persons. Libya recognizes the importance of discussing these issues and looks forward to finding global answers at the upcoming conference.

I) Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies

Even more people are affected by natural disasters or conflicts and need humanitarian help. In 2016, earthquakes, floods or hurricanes caused the death of almost 10,000 people, costing more than \$175 million. And the people who suffer from such events at most are poor people. Moreover the growing number of conflicts, especially in the Middle-East, lead to humanitarian crisis, not only in countries threatened by wars, but also in the neighbouring countries who have to face alone the refugee flow pressure. Last year, 60 million people were forced to leave their homes, 80% of them are right now in southern countries. Regarding the seriousness and the multiplicity of humanitarian crisis, an improved coordination is required to implement quick and effective responses.

In 1997, several non-governmental organizations emphasized the right for any person affected by a disaster or a conflict to get help and protection from governments and intergovernmental organizations. The first World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, held from May 1994 in Yokohama, started a world conferences cycle to strengthen financial and logistical support for countries stricken by humanitarian disasters. The work of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee tends to improve international coordination.

However Libya believes that the efforts undertaken by international community are not significant enough. In Libya, more than 2 million people need humanitarian help. The current political situation has compelled hundreds of thousands Libyan people to leave their homes. Besides, thousands of foreigners are standing in Libya, waiting to settle in Europe. Because of the difficulties for the Libyan government to control the whole territory, the international community has a moral duty to take action.

II) Preventing Violence and Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender inequality

Libya strongly believes in the perpetuation of its cultural and religious values despite the actual trend fostered by Northern countries which increasingly deny traditions and religious roots. Indeed, the world has to be more inclusive and has to struggle against inequalities and discrimination which are still rampant in many countries. However, in order to battle bias and make inroads in terms of emancipation, one has to reckon collective liberties instead of focusing on individual ones.

On one hand, Libya is deeply rooted in muslim traditions and consequently considers inappropriate and dangerous same-sex marriage. Nevertheless, Libya's Provisional government denounces deviant behaviours and criminality against the gay community, and more generally speaking

harassment based on sexual orientation. Libyan's society and judicial system should be the only one able to judge (and even punish in worst cases) illegal relationships which may jeopardize Libyans' well-being.

On the other hand, many progresses have been indulged by the Kadafi government to improve women's condition, allowing women to be in majority in national universities. But, though gender equality has been a cornerstone of Libyan's politics, there is still much to do to promote gender equality in this country. Libya is thus disposed to encourage feminine labour and emancipation provided it does not endanger their role in their families.

Regarding the UN resolution of June 2016, Libya is then in favour of the implementation of measures that contribute to the protection of all persons against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, on the assumption that its sovereignty is not flouted. As a result, Libya hopes that the Independent Expert mandated by the United Nations will not disturb Libya's internal matters and will focus on his advising role.

III) Promoting rights and strengthening protections for older persons

All around the world, many progresses have been accomplished in science regarding the increasing life expectancy and the quality of treatments for older people. Yet, a growing number of older persons suffer from discrimination, poverty, violence and abuse. They obviously lack politic measures and specific services that will preserve this older generation. In some countries, the seniors do not benefit from a health insurance cover provided by their government; they consequently have to pay for all their treatments and thus they have to work longer in harsh conditions in order to gather enough money.

Libya is willing to get involved in the promotion of older people's rights as it is well-known Libyans do believe in the protection of their oldest family members as well as in the preservation of human rights. Of course, it is worth-mentioning that the median age of Libya's population is relatively low, around 28 years old; but it does not mean Libya does not take this topic at heart because its population will inevitably grow older in the few years to come. Consequently, Libya has faith in the General Assembly and more especially in the Third Committee to solve this alarming situation which affects an increasing number of global citizens nowadays.