

# FAST FACTS

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Development Programme



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**OCTOBER 2012**

**ASSISTING DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION IN LIBYA**

**SUPPORTING THE GENERAL NATIONAL CONGRESS**

Since the fall of the old regime in October 2011, Libya has been undergoing a dramatic transition to democracy involving a complete overhaul of its political system. In response, UNDP refocused its work to support key institutions that have a significant impact on the course of the transition.

Following successful elections on July 7 2012, the elected General National Congress of Libya (GNC) has replaced the National Transitional Council as supreme national authority in the country assuming legislative powers and acting as the highest authority in the country during the transition.

As part of the regional Project “Inclusive and Participative Political Institutions” as well as the Transitional Governance Support project, UNDP’s support to the GNC focused on developing and delivering an induction programme for newly elected members, exposing them to fundamental concepts and principles of parliamentary work, advice to secretariat on the set up of administrative structure as well as developing a draft Internal Regulations and providing requested input and advice to Internal Regulations Committee. Based on the experience of supporting the former NTC and building on current support to GNC, parliamentary development efforts of UNDP Libya will continue during the period 2012-2014 to support the newly elected General National Congress (GNC).

## RESULTS

- Draft organizational structure of GNC secretariat defining the functions of key departments
- Draft Internal Regulations and provide substantive input and advice to Internal Regulations Committee
- Providing policy and technical advice
- Over 700 books and guides on parliamentary work procured as a seed for establishing a parliamentary library and research centre
- Initiation of Induction programme for newly elected members of the GNC

## SUPPORTING THE SECRETARIAT OF THE GNC

The Secretariat of any parliament is the neutral, permanent, in-house civil service, tasked with providing administrative support and substantive advice to political representatives. Representatives change with elections, but the Secretariat remains and preserves institutional memory. UNDP’s support to the GNC focuses on institutional strengthening of its Secretariat by utilizing regional experiences and best practices to draw organizational structure of key departments defining their proper roles and responsibilities.

UNDP developed an organigram for the secretariat, organization of president and vice presidents’ offices. A detailed document was produced and submitted to GNC

## GNC INTERNAL REGULATIONS

One of the crucial challenges facing any newly elected representative assembly is to agree on internal procedures that would organize and facilitate its internal workings. Given its

importance, UNDP employed its network of expertise to produce a draft document of internal regulations that was the basis of the formal internal regulations that the GNC adopted formally. During the discussions leading up to the adoption of the internal regulations, UNDP provided on the spot advice to members of the GNC committee established to prepare the final regulations.



UNDP- produced Procedural Guides highlighted in the internal GNC newsletter

### ESTABLISHING A PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTER

In this context, UNDP provided support to the establishment of a parliamentary library and research center. Over 700 key legal publications including, books, guides and dictionaries, in addition to 160 guides from the Inter-parliamentary Union, were procured as a seed core the library and research centre. A detailed organizational structure for the library was developed including specific terms of reference of key senior positions.

### SUPPORTING GNC WEBSITE

As a newly elected legislature, GNC will find itself increasingly reliant on new technology to communicate with average citizens, civil society, international community. For this purpose, UNDP provided advice to the secretariat of GNC on ways to upgrade website to international parliamentary standards as set by Internal Parliamentary Union (IPU). An international expert was brought for a short mission to assess, advise and provide practical recommendations to align GNC website with international standards.

### DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GNC INDUCTION PROGRAMME

UNDP initiated an induction programme for the newly elected General National Congress. Three

procedural guides were produced as background papers for the induction with the purpose of orienting newly elected members to their functions. The guides covered: 1) legislative powers in a political system, 2) the structure of parliament and 3) the rights and duties of elected members.

### POLICY ADVICE

UNDP continues to provide GNC secretariat and political leadership with important policy advice in the form of papers and studies on important and sometimes urgent tasks that confront the General National Congress. Important draft papers included notes on Code of Conduct for members of GNC, parliamentary communication, criteria and standards for determining financial compensation based on comparative examples and recognized criteria.

### FUTURE SUPPORT

UNDP will focus in the coming months on providing support to the GNC—the elected assembly emerging from Libya’s first free, multi-party parliamentary elections, in six decades, which were held on 7 July 2012.

UNDP will support members of the GNC—dealing with parliamentary duties for their very first time—to effectively fulfil their mandate in undertaking legislative, budgeting, oversight and representational functions

UNDP support to the GNC will be based on a two pronged strategy: one supporting the secretariat to become neutral and highly effective administrative body and developing its capacity in inter alia, communication, library and research, and human resources management; and the other is to support the technical capacity of GNC by providing substantive and procedural advice to elected members and committees towards effective discharge of their mandate.

Special focus will be devoted to women elected members in terms of enhancing their capacities and encouraging networks and exchange of experiences.

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