

Verbal Intervention – Item 6 UPR outcome United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Mr President

Since 2011 – when the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) intervened alongside its European allies in support of the people of Libya – the Italian coast has become the destination of choice for an exodus of migrants from Africa. The Next Century Foundation (NCF) notes that a recent study by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has shown that the lack of stability in Libya boosts migration flows towards Europe. That means more suffering, more human rights violations, more deaths, and as a consequence a greater burden of accountability for the European countries.

It is time for the UK – which is both in part responsible for and affected by current Libyan instability – to take a serious initiative aimed at resuming closer contact with the country and its political institutions. A new dialogue between the two countries is needed to help redress current Libyan instability and, as a consequence, the migration issue. The NCF believes the UK should take a lead role in relieving the massive humanitarian burden that is having such an excruciating effect on both Libya and Europe. Therefore the NCF urges the UK to take action in that context by establishing an effective diplomatic mission in Tripoli, Libya, following the example taken by the government of Italy at the beginning of this year. The reopening of the UK embassy in Libya is of strategic importance for both countries. We are running out of time and each passing day means the loss of more innocent lives. We must not delay. The UK should reopen its Embassy in Tripoli.

Thank you