

**□ Statement by the Secretary-General on Libya □**

New York, 17 March 2011

The Security Council today has taken an historic decision. Resolution 1973 affirms, clearly and unequivocally, the international community's determination to fulfil its responsibility to protect civilians from violence perpetrated upon them by their own government. The Resolution authorizes the use of all necessary measures, including a no-fly zone to prevent further casualties and loss of innocent lives. In adopting this Resolution, the Security Council placed great importance on the appeal of the League of Arab States for action.

Given the critical situation on the ground, I expect immediate action on the Resolution's provisions. I am prepared to carry out my responsibilities, as mandated by the resolution, and will work closely with Member States and regional organizations to coordinate a common, effective and timely response.

Once again, I join the Council in calling for an immediate cease-fire, a halt to all attacks on civilians and full humanitarian access to those in need. Our strenuous diplomatic efforts will continue. Following his mission to Tripoli, my Special Envoy for Libya met in Cairo today with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. He will brief me this weekend on the results of his conversations. I myself will travel to the region to advance our common efforts in this critical hour.