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First National Survey of Libya[®] - Executive Summary¹

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- Libyans are **happy** in their personal lives. In global comparisons Libya ranks 13th of 57, behind the UK but well ahead of France, the US, Germany, Russia and Iraq²
- There is great **optimism**. Typically 7-8 in 10 respondents say they are expecting improvements in their personal lives, economic circumstances and their country. High early optimism in other transformation countries e.g. East Germany and Iraq, later led to **disappointment**
- People are in **control of their own lives**: on a scale of 10 from 'no control' = 1 to 'complete control' = 10, Libyans score an average of 7.5³
- However, **social trust** is low, only 17% say that most other people can be trusted
- **Reflecting on the Libyan revolution** 82% think it was 'absolutely right' and 15% 'somewhat right'. Impressive majorities insist that personal life and the situation in the country have improved. In contrast, ca. one quarter of the sample says 'same' or 'worse'
- For **future structure of the country**: two thirds would like to see a semi-centralised Libya with a government in Tripoli but ministries in cities across the country. 21% say they want pure centralism while 14% opt for federalism. Division of the country is not an option (1%)
- Put in a position to spend **100 million Dinars**, Libyans would give preference to health (34)⁴, education (27) and the infrastructure (17), but would spend as much on environmental improvement (8) as on telecommunications; more than on public offices (7)
- For 51% stability (fighting crime, disorder) is **top policy priority**. A remote 2nd is 'infrastructure' (9%), jobs (8) follow in third place. Not at all priorities are peaceful coexistence with Libya's neighbours (2), an improved bureaucracy (1), and dealing with the proponents of the Gadhaffi regime (1)
- 69% state that **members of the Gadhaffi regime** should go on trial to be re-integrated into society. 51% prescribe the same for the supporters of the regime. The remainder opt for other methods of re-integration

¹ All figures are rounded and computed without proportions of 'don't know'

² World Values Surveys latest available online data 2005-8. Ranked by number of respondents reporting very high life satisfaction

³ Standard deviation 2.4

⁴ Mean scores

- The country's **most trusted institution** is the NTC (81% total trust), beating Libya's clergy into 2nd place (72). The interim government is third (68); NATO a midfield player (53). At the bottom are the UN (43), the EU (39), and in last position the political parties (27% trust). An election now might replace the country's most trusted institution with the most mistrusted
- Only 62% are **aware of political parties** of which three quarters mistrust them. An early election appears elusive. In fact, only 5% confirm that a **national election** is a policy priority
- Asked on a scale of 1-10 if **religion and politics** should either be much the same thing (1) or distinct (10), respondents overwhelmingly choose extreme categories. 49% say 'same thing' and 21% 'distinct' with the remaining 30% opting for more moderate answers (average 4.1)⁵. This emerges as a potentially divisive issue
- While most Libyans believe religion should inform the **moral fabric of politics** it should not empower political actors. 57% feel that the **Muslim Brotherhood** should not play a role in Libya's political future (27% say it should and 16% are unfamiliar with the movement). Most of all, Libyans **reject** the idea of a **religious government**
- People **prefer a single or a group of leaders over democratic models**. In 12 months time 42% say they want a strong man (or men) while, in fourth position, only 15% favour a form of democracy. In second position is a technocratic government (21%), and the NTC in third (17); though the NTC will not go on beyond June 2012. Not wanted are religious leaders (4) and military figures (2). In 5 years' time, the democratic models improve from 15 to 29%, but **autocracy/oligarchy** are still in the lead at 35%
- Preference for autocratic models **contradicts** peoples' political mobilisation. **Political interest** is high: three quarters report great or moderate interest. 8 in 10 explain that their political interest has grown over the past year. **Political action** is also well developed: 9 in 10 say they have talked or would talk about politics, 83% would vote and 62% either have demonstrated or would do so in the future. 42% are ready to join a political party or action group
- 69% insist **ordinary citizens should have a say** in how the country should develop, while the remaining 31% feel it should be left to politicians. Moreover, people believe they can **influence politics**: 18% say they believe they can influence local politics, 13% say 'national' and 62% see room for political influence at both levels
- 79% name TV for receiving **political information**; another 15% turn to other people. This powerfully underlines that TV is ideal for any form of political education; democratic or otherwise
- 16% say they are ready to use **violence for political ends**. This represents 630,000 potential fighters⁶, in addition to the ca. 280,000 who previously took up arms. This significant minority requires research and monitoring if Libya's chances of peaceful development are to be improved
- Qatar (42%) and France (39) are seen as **key contributors to removing Gadhaffi** from power. The US is in third position (7) and the UK in fourth (5). Least helpful were Algeria (60), Russia (14) and China (6)
- Invited to **influence the future of Libya** are France (aggregate 14%), the US (10) and Qatar (10). Conversely, Algeria should not influence (42), followed by the African Union (26) and the US (10). Most of all 80% of the sample insists: 'no influence, Libyans will decide'
- A **model for Libya** could come from oil-rich UAE (22%) or Qatar (9). The US comes third (5). However, 38% are adamant that 'Libya needs no model'

⁵ Standard deviation 3.7

⁶ 15+ population = 3,942,212, census 2006