

1 March 2011

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss,
President of the 65th Session of the General Assembly,
on the suspension of Libya from the UN Human Rights Council**

Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the President of the General Assembly

This afternoon, the General Assembly convened to consider resolution A/65/L.60, co-sponsored by 72 Members states, proposing, in view of the human rights situation in Libya, the suspension of the rights of membership of Libya in the UN Human Rights Council. In his introductory remarks, the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Joseph Deiss, said that he was deeply shocked by the situation in Libya and the gross and systematic violations of human rights in the country. He appealed to the General Assembly Member States to be united and resolved in their determination to implement the UN Charter, to ensure that human rights are respected and violations of these rights are punished. President Deiss stressed that this is a duty that the international community has towards all the men and women who are struggling for their rights to be respected and who endure the greatest dangers. UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, informed the General Assembly of the latest developments in Libya and the decisions taken by the UN Security Council in this regard. The resolution was adopted by consensus by the General Assembly. The General Assembly thus sent a very strong message of its resolve to defend human rights.