

AS LIBYA OVERCOMES CHAOS,
NEWLY ESTABLISHED COUNCIL PROMISES CLARITY
Inaugural Meeting of the National Council on US-Libyan Relations
Held in Washington DC on July 29, 2016

Washington DC, August 8, 2016. A group of American, Libyan, and European experts on Libya met in Washington DC last week to establish the governance structures for the National Council on US-Libya Relations (NCUSLR), a nonprofit organization dedicated to rebuilding US relations with Libya and providing non-partisan credible information on Libya to US Institutions and vice versa.

“As Libya strives to overcome chaos and division amid civil war, the formation of NCUSLR is a recognition of the need for Libyans to see the US as a partner in helping to establish security and prosperity through effective state and private institutions” said **Chairman of the Board Hani Shennib**, adding *“By providing a consistently reliable source of information about Libya, we aim to improve understanding and help create a sound American engagement in Libya.”*

At its inaugural meeting, the group laid out the Council’s bylaws, and discussed short and long-term priorities and strategic goals and plans. The meeting participants also discussed extensively the deteriorating security, economic, political and humanitarian situation in the country and shared their concerns with Mr. Jonathan Winer, the US Special Envoy to Libya who attended part of the discussion as a guest.

“Economic stabilization in Libya can only be built on a foundation of trust” said **Hafed Al Ghwell, Former World Bank Advisor and member of the Council’s Board of Directors**, during his talk on the multiple financial and economic challenges facing Libya today. While **Wolfgang Puztai, Austrian security strategist** said, *“US security interests in Libya can be better served by providing policy makers with real time reliable opinion and expertise”*.

As the Council on US-Libya Relations begins its long journey towards a deeper and wider engagement between the two countries across multiple areas of mutual interest, including health care, education, economic, cultural, and political cooperation, it calls on all friends of Libya to reach out and work with its board and experts to achieve these goals and objectives. *“We look forward to working with Libyans, Americans, and others in a nonpartisan manner to create the most effective and constructive communications and deepen relations between the two countries”* said its **Vice Chairman professor Hassan Sassi**.

For more Information, contact Hani Shennib; hanishennib@email.com or Hafed Al Ghwell : hafed.alghwell@post.harvard.edu

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