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ORAL STATEMENT
ITEM 10: GENERAL DEBATE

UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-seventh session
26 February – 23 March 2018

Mr. President,

Today or tomorrow, this Council will adopt a resolution on technical assistance and capacity building to improve human rights in Libya. However this resolution falls well short of the response needed because it fails to establish a dedicated international investigative mechanism to combat the impunity that currently prevails in Libya. Amnesty International submitted a written statement to this Session, highlighting the scale of violations of international law committed by all sides. We called for the establishment of a mechanism to conduct independent, impartial and effective investigations. We are disappointed that the drafting process lacked any meaningful open informal consultations. Nonetheless we emphasize the need for all relevant entities to implement the resolution and to hold perpetrators of human rights violations to account.

Amnesty International shares the concerns raised by the High Commissioner about the on-going crackdown on civil society, peaceful political opponents and independent media in Cambodia. We call on the Government to take urgent measures to reverse the deterioration of the human rights situation in the country ahead of the elections in July, including by:

- Amending or repealing laws that violate the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, including the Law on Associations and Non-governmental Organisations.
- Immediately and unconditionally releasing all prisoners of conscience –including human rights defenders, and members and supporters of the opposition incarcerated solely for peaceful activities – including land activist, Tep Vanny, and opposition leader, Kem Sokha.

If such steps are not taken urgently, Amnesty urges this Council to consider further action.

Thank you, Mr. President