

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 19 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1973 (2011), adopted on 17 March 2011, and to my letter No. 125 of 18 March 2011, in which I notified you of the French Government's decision to take measures authorized by paragraphs 4 and 8 of the resolution in order to "protect civilians and civilian populated areas under threat of attack" and to "enforce compliance with the ban on flights imposed by paragraph 6" (of the same resolution).

I would like to inform you that at 9 a.m. today, New York time, France began operations that constitute measures authorized by resolution 1973 (2011):

- Pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1973 (2011), use of aircraft to halt flights in Libyan airspace, thereby helping to protect civilians, particularly in the area of Benghazi; and
- Pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 1973 (2011), use of aircraft to intervene, as necessary, against armed forces, including the armoured vehicles that are threatening to attack civilians.

(Signed) **Gérard Araud**

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