



Remarks

by

**H.E. Dr. Nawaf Salam
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**at the
ECOSOC Operational Activities
for Development Segment**

**Interactive panel discussion on
“From coordinated to integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda:
the development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding nexus”**

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Check Against Delivery

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- The newly adopted QCPR resolution reflected the vision relayed in Agenda 2030 and in other similarly relevant instruments such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and last year's GA Resolution 70/262 (The Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture). In the QCPR resolution there was a common call upon the entities of the United Nations development system to enhance coordination with humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding efforts at the national level in countries facing humanitarian emergencies and in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.

- Lebanon is one of those countries where peacebuilding, development and humanitarian, not to mention peacekeeping activities, have been running simultaneously in the past few decades. Affected by a long internal civil conflict, and two Israeli invasions in the in the 70's and the 80's, the country embarked in the 90's on a long, arduous, and costly reconstruction process, coupled with attempts at rebuilding its institutions, and healing the political, social and economic wounds of conflict. The United Nations has been an important partner in these efforts, whether through UNIFIL or UNRWA or UNDP & and other entities of the UN Development System. Since 2011, and as a result of the mass influx of more than 1.2 million refugees due to the ongoing crisis in Syria, the humanitarian dimension of United Nation's activities in the country has dominated the discourse.

- In this regard, the Lebanese Government has consistently emphasised the need to enhance coordination and coherence between the development, and humanitarian activities of the United Nations entities and operations at the country level, in accordance with national plans and priorities, in order to meet the needs of both the refugees and their host communities. We also continued to stress the importance of continuing the peacebuilding activities and the support that the UN System has provided over the past 2 decades.

- It was in this context that the Lebanese Government and the UN System signed last October a pioneering United Nations Strategic Framework (UNSF) for the period 2017-2020 to replace the previous UN Development Assistance Framework. The new framework recognizes that in view of the multi-dimensional challenges facing Lebanon and the multiple mandates under which the UN is operating in the country, the UN needs to follow a "Whole of Lebanon" approach that leverages and integrates the UN's diverse expertise, capacities and resources to support the Government of Lebanon at meeting its priorities and manage security, political, governance and socio-economic challenges to stability. The approach also aims at supporting Lebanon on the path to longer term sustainable development in accordance with the vision, principles and goals of Agenda 2030.

- The Framework identifies three core priorities, each subdivided into multiple outcomes, which will frame the UN System's support to the Government of Lebanon during the next three years:

Core Priority 1: That All people in Lebanon have peace and security:

Here, the UN intends to help mitigate external threats to Lebanon, strengthen domestic security and law and order and defuse local inter-communal tensions. Some of the identified areas of support are:

- Diffusing tensions and the risk of violence through the Special Coordinator's exercise of the Secretary General's good offices (1701??).
- Implementation of the UNIFIL mandate.
- Strengthening Lebanon's capacity to manage and control its borders.
- Supporting the Lebanese Armed Forces).
- Supporting the Government in strengthening municipal and community based policing capacities.
- Preventing violent extremism and building the legal capacities to counter terrorism.
- Mapping the areas susceptible to violence, and supporting local peacebuilding and conflict prevention initiatives.

Core Priority 2: That Lebanon enjoys domestic stability and practices effective governance:

Here, the UN intends to support mechanisms which promote accountability and inclusive participation, and to support the strengthening of core executive and legislative capacities of the state. Some of the identified areas of support are:

- Providing technical support for the dialogue initiatives on constitution-related issues, such as institutional effectiveness, security, electoral law and decentralization.
- Developing capacities for the implementation of fiscal, economic and social policies, administrative reform, youth policy, and statistical capacity building.
- Supporting national institutions in the implementation of the National Human Rights Plan of Action.
- Supporting the Government in harmonizing its laws with international standards for gender equality and women's empowerment, including CEDAW.

Core Priority 3: That Lebanon reduces poverty and promotes sustainable development while addressing immediate needs in a human rights/gender sensitive manner:

Here, the UN will pursue a 'dual-track' approach that focuses both on mitigating the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon, and addressing pre-existing structural constraints. Some of the identified areas of support are:

- Supporting the Government in developing its national comprehensive development plan to ensure the integration of Agenda 2030, and providing advisory services to the Government as a whole, relevant ministries and entities on the integration of the Agenda.

- Supporting the Government in promoting the development of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.
- Providing policy and strategy support on trade capacity building.
- Strengthening policy, institutional and legal frameworks in the field of disaster risk reduction.
- Improving the technical and logistical capacity of the Ministry of Health's public primary health care centers to enable the extension of their services to the refugee population in the country, in addition to Lebanese nationals.
- Supporting the access of refugees to hospital care, education, vocational training, and providing them with basic social support.
- Supporting the Government in developing and implementing a mid- to long-term integrated waste management strategy.
- Supporting the Government's mitigation and adaptation policies aimed at addressing the impact of climate change.