



Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations

Statement of Lebanon

by Counselor Mr. Nizar Kaddouh

The ECOSOC 2021 Operational Activities for Development Segment

Dialogue with Resident Coordinators, addressing multidimensional poverty and leaving no one behind through a whole of system approach

(20 May 2021)

Madam Chair,

I would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to interact with the distinguished Resident Coordinators (RCs), and to appreciate their critical contribution to sustainable development and the COVID-19 response.

We believe that collaboration among RCs, humanitarian entities and international financial institutions (IFIs) is crucial to tackle the vulnerabilities of crisis affected countries during COVID-19 and beyond, without excluding the special needs of middle-income countries, especially those hosting large numbers of refugees.

We commend the efforts of the RC Mrs. Najat Roshdi and the UN as the whole for the swift mobilization and support to stand by Lebanon during these challenging times.

The RC has been one of Lebanon's main partners and played a significant role in alleviating the impact of the compounded crises. We value the UN's support especially in contributing to the framework of Reform, Recovery, and Reconstruction that brought renewed hope to the Lebanese people, who aspire to build back a better and greener Lebanon based on the principles of transparency, inclusion and accountability.

As a matter of fact, resilient investments in crisis affected countries would ensure a long-term sustainable recovery that goes beyond the short-term assistance related to humanitarian crises. We believe that investment in infrastructure and capacity building programs to strengthen

institutions is crucial to decrease the long-term dependency of said countries on unsustainable foreign assistance.

We call upon the entities of the United Nations Development System to leverage their comparative advantages to continue enhancing cooperation, collaboration and coordination with humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding efforts at the national level in countries facing relevant crises.

One laments the lack of political efforts to solve these crises, even more the modest efforts of prevention to prevent countries that have simmering political crises from sliding into gridlock, paralysis and eventually conflict.

Prevention by the UN in cooperation with IFIs and other relevant stakeholders should be given the highest priority to make sure that crisis affected countries do not remain in perpetual cycle of conflict or dependent on handouts from the international community. It is time to root out the causes of conflicts before they start and make prevention the first item on the agenda with robust UN engagement and focus on conflict resolution and mediation instead of crisis management.

We finally hope that the approach to Lebanon will be a whole of system approach to tackle all the crises at once, from political to economic, educational, and the of course the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. They are all interrelated.

I thank you.

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