



Statement

by

Lebanon

at the

Sixth Committee

Item 85: “The rule of law at the national and international levels”

New York, October 12, 2021

Check Against Delivery

***Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY 10017***

Madame Chair,

If there is one certainty that has emerged from the uncertain times we have been navigating, it's this: the rule of law is not an idea we debate and refine when all is going well; it is rather the very thing that protects people when all is not.

Be it at the national or international level, equality before the law, accountability, independent and unhindered justice, respect for human rights are part and parcel of a strong rules based system.

From the 2019 protest movements in Lebanon, to the calls for truth and justice in the aftermath of the Beirut port blast, promoting a '*people-centered rule of law*' requires meeting the legitimate aspirations of the Lebanese people for a country free of corruption and where social justice becomes a daily reality, down to the most basic exercise of social or public action.

Women and youth as agents of change have been a solid driving force in carrying those ideas. NGOs and civil society organizations, work to reinforce every day, in each and every part of the country, the rule of law: from providing legal aid to the most vulnerable, to fighting corruption, to ensuring access to justice.

The United Nations has also been a longstanding partner of my country and has provided support in various areas. The Secretary-General's annual report on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities contains information on some activities carried out by the United Nations in Lebanon

Madame Chair,

Despite all of our ongoing challenges, implementation is on the right track for the first National Action Plan on resolution 1325, adopted in 2020. This plan, reflects Lebanon's aspirations to achieve gender equality and women empowerment. It consolidates the equal, full, meaningful, and effective participation of women, in building sustainable peace, preventing conflicts and promoting national stability. The National Steering Committee 1325, spearheaded by the National Commission for Lebanese Women, and supported by UN agencies, have been leading the coordination and implementation efforts.

Madame Chair,

Respect for the UN Charter remains central in reinforcing a multilateral framework based on international legality.

In the same vein, implementation of relevant international legal instruments, of United Nations resolutions, - particularly Security Council resolutions - are at the core of the promotion of the rule of law.

International and hybrid Tribunal and Courts continue to fulfill an indispensable role in pursuing the rule of law. The International Court of Justice remains one of the main organs for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States. Abiding by its judgements and advisory opinions can only reinforce the multilateral-rules based order.

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon established to prosecute victims of the 2005 terrorist attacks is nearing the end of its work, set for 2022. Lebanon reiterates its commitment towards the completion of the work of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, to grant long-awaited justice to the victims and their families and ending impunity for terrorist acts.

As my delegation expressed it before ‘International tribunals are important to bring about justice and end impunity, but they should be effective and complete their work in a timely fashion, otherwise they send the wrong message about international justice.’