



Statement

by

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Permanent Representative of **Lebanon**

to the United Nations

at the Economic and Social Council

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on the

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***Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
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Madam President,

At the outset, allow me to commend you on the impeccable organization of this year's Forum.

First, Lebanon aligns itself with the statement made by the state of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Second, allow me to extend my appreciations to the co-facilitators for the fruitful outcome document.

Madam President,

As we approach the conclusion of the first four-year cycle of the Addis Agenda, the world has done a lot in terms of achieving the 17 SDG goals, but lot of challenges remain. As reflected in the report of the Inter Agency Task Force for 2019, investments that are critical to achieving the SDGs remain low. True Global Challenges remain, which include extreme poverty, rising inequality, and rising Debt risks. Climate change threats are worsening, affecting demographics, social patterns and economic choices.

Madam President,

Eight years into the Syrian conflict, Lebanon remains at the forefront of one of the worst humanitarian crises of our time and has shown exceptional commitment and solidarity to people displaced by the war in Syria.

The Government of Lebanon estimated that the country hosts around 1.5 million Syrians who have fled the conflict in Syria. Public services are overstretched, the conflict in Syria has significantly impacted Lebanon's social and economic growth. The Economic impact on the healthcare system, the education systems, and the burden imposed on the electricity system is very costly to a country where infrastructure is already fragile, not to mention the burden of employment in a country where already unemployment levels are already high.

Advancing Lebanon's progress on Agenda 2030 faces a number of challenges that need to be addressed, and Financing is the main challenge. Private Sector and Domestic Resources mobilization are required, but also, Lebanon requires the international community to step up its efforts, in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility, and to provide support beyond the narrow prism of humanitarian assistance. Longer term development financing, or sustainable financing, in the form of concessional loans and grants or flexible investment loans, lead by international and regional development banks, is essential to deal with a crisis of such magnitude and depth. This will help in meeting not only the needs of refugees, but also those of their host communities which are literally providing a "global public good".

Madam President,

Despite all these challenges, Lebanon is committed to implement its SDG targets. Lebanon established in 2017 the National Committee for SDGs, to localize the Global agenda based on our national needs, challenges and resources.

The committee is headed by the Prime Minister with the participation of the different ministries, the private sector and civil society, with civil society given full autonomy to operate in the National Committee. A parallel parliamentary committee for SDGs was established, to map existing legislations to SDGs.

Last year, we presented our first VNR in the high-level political forum, and we intend to do so periodically. In terms of women empowerment, Lebanon has taken huge legislative steps, and the new Cabinet that was formed 3 months ago includes four lady ministers among which is the first lady Minister of Interior in the Arab World.

Madam President,

Lebanon greatly appreciates the role of the UN agencies and its donor friends around the world, particularly the latest commitments made under CEDRE Conference last year. However, the way forward is long, and we count on additional support

Thank you.