

FORUM Advisory Panel

QUESTION OF: Situation in Lebanon

MAIN-SUBMITTED BY: USA

CO- SUBMITTED BY: Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Russia, Switzerland, USA

1. Requests the Lebanese government to reform its legislation in sections regarding corruption taking note of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and international law through ways such as but not limited to:
  - a. strengthening the implementation of existing laws including the Anti-Corruption law, the Whistleblower Protection law, and the Access to Information law regarding corruption that could end the impunity to corruption crisis among the public officials by:
    - i. making the related documents of corruption laws widely accessible to the public,
    - ii. ensuring that the steps of punishment to corrupted officials are transparent and accessible in order to end the exceptions,
  - b. suggesting drafting laws that support preventing corruption through transparent transaction processes and the quick investigation of irregularities,
  - c. requesting external auditing of relevant departments and branches of the Lebanese government by relevant UNOs with a focus on corruption if correct measures are not explicitly executed or if Lebanon falls into a deeper crisis in spite of visible effort,
  - d. enacting more laws that ensure the judiciary branch its independence and capacity for its forensic investigations of the legislative and executive branch;
  
2. Recommends the creation of the governmental financial department screened by selected publics, companies, and governmental officials which deals with the assurance of the balance of payments, currency crisis, public finance, flow of money used in social welfares through ways such as but not limited to:
  - a. creating the Lebanese Anti-Corruption Council supported from the United Nations Offices through ways such as but not limited to:
    - i. handling and further investigating all reports of alleged corruption from citizens and government officials,
    - ii. releasing a publicly available quarterly report of corruption in all levels of the Lebanese government through meetings regarding reports to current situation,
    - iii. documenting the transparent report constantly of the governmental finance management and exact usage of government budget including foreign investments, taxations, pensions, donations,
    - iv. gathering evidence for that may be relevant for the removal from office and prosecution of possible corrupt officials in Lebanese courts,
  - b. providing extensive reports of the political figures and governmental officials involved in corruption when evidence collected by the department shows the illegal action by:
    - i. dismissal of duties as soon as the individual's action is clear,
    - ii. levy a fine of \$10,000 for the corruption in addition to paying back the

- corrupted money to the government through the department,
- c. improving the use of investments based on the records of money transfer which would help the government to solve the fundamental financial crisis by minimizing the unnecessary budget used;
3. Strongly suggests the Lebanese government to introduce a concrete economic plan incentivizing foreign investments and domestic entrepreneurship to be completed by the end of 2030 with measures including but not limited to:
    - a. once the inflation rate settles in at an acceptable value, suggest to lower interest rate to increase aggregate demand and to encourage borrowing and entrepreneurship,
    - b. advices closely documenting major economic indicators such as:
      - i. real and nominal GDP and growth,
      - ii. inflation rate and foreign exchange rates of the Lebanese Pound,
      - iii. national debt and hopefully reduction,
    - c. suggests fiscally conservative economic policy to be achievable without hampering growth significantly to limit the rate at which the country's public debt is growing, through increasing overall individual and companies' tax rates,
    - d. recommends the government to invest in diverse economic sectors such as quaternary and quinary sector;
  4. Requests the improvement in generating more incomes, develop tax reforms regardless the implement due to vested interest, patronage and illegal relationship between legislators and wealthy people through ways such as but not limited to:
    - a. government considers increasing the personal income of citizens in Lebanon through ways such as creating more jobs for individuals to have opportunities to find respective income through ways such as but not limited to:
      - i. enlarge the job market in Lebanon with exact thorough market information and statistics collected by National Employment Office (NEO),
      - ii. introduce incentives for business to register the employees,
      - iii. revise and enforce the outdated labor laws, as well as laws related to employment of foreigners,
    - b. calls upon the house to support Lebanon to develop fiscal rules to distort incentives reformed through ways such as but not limited to:
      - i. introduce the fiscal rules that give pressure to the country and individuals when the economy is overspend,
      - ii. consider limiting taxes to individuals for greater income through the development of fiscal rules;
    - c. introduce incentives for medium and small-sized enterprises that are evaluated as a proper business called three-year project to support financially by government to recruit the employees
      - i. subsidize them annually for three years
      - ii. rates the business with transparency, prospect, fairness, and economic value
      - iii. subsidize them annually for two years and if the business has the conspicuous progress which is having stable income by recruits after the three-years policy has done in order, provide them two additional years
  5. Strongly requests the Lebanese government to allocate the investment in education so that people understands the seriousness of the economic collapse and that it works as a long

term solution to economic crisis in Lebanon in ways such as but not limited to:

- a. share critical information on social media and Social Networking Services of the government to ensure that more people can easily see with the contents including,
    - i. accurate status and data organized clearly regarding the economy crisis including funding loss and improvement,
    - ii. introducing solutions that individuals are able to participate and make changes to better improve the economic crisis of the country,
  - b. hold political campaigns for individuals to participate and alarm the politicians and bankers to be aware of the problem, as well as agree on scale of the vast losses and the areas of focus,
  - c. develop a new curriculum based on the sector priorities and market needs, especially for education regarding specialties through such ways but not limited to:
    - i. introduce career orientation through ways of creating national career orientation center,
    - ii. introduce more licensing system and education for specialists;
6. Urges the government to make quick decisions for preventing further collapse on economy by having stalled talks with International Monetary Fund (IMF), and developing the electricity sector through ways such as but not limited to:
- a. promote communication with the IMF through ways such as but not limited to:
    - i. highly recommend policy regarding building labor market institutions, supporting workers for equality, freedom and protection,
    - ii. support the Lebanon government to build a foundation for funds for health and education,
    - iii. support restructuring negotiation between Lebanon and its private creditors in a collective effort to bring the country's debt back to a sustainable level,
  - b. suggest the government to consider developing electricity sector to promote the communication and education through ways such as but not limited to:
    - i. governmental support provided to the Selata power project for the development and improvement on the electricity,
  - c. provide advices having precise government spending, spending public funds in a manner which promotes economic growth and prosperity, including investments into infrastructure including but not limited to:
    - i. transport facilities such as railroads and highways,
    - ii. powerplants, water purification plants and other infrastructure addressing issues in the electricity and water grid of Lebanon,
    - iii. re-building damaged infrastructure from the Beirut port explosion;
7. Strongly encourages the government to evoke an increase in its domestic demand, which as a result, enhances productivity and produces better outcomes for products that are generated, through ways such as but not limited to:
- a. utilize devaluation which boosts demand of Lebanese for Lebanon's domestic market as applying devaluation lowers the value of domestic currencies relative to other countries' currencies through ways such as but not limited to:
    - i. promotes exports to become cheaper and increases domestic demand, and increase in domestic demands leads to enlargement of job market in Lebanon,
    - ii. fosters increase in cost of import products that leads encourages Lebanese to purchase goods from Lebanon's domestic market which increases

- competitiveness in Lebanese economy,
  - b. urges the government to primarily focus on the middle-class consumers who can be identified with their materialistic possessions and their success economically, and support the government to expand their domestic market internationally as 1.8 billion of middle-class consumers are situated in Asia,
  - c. strongly supports the government to boost domestic demand by providing services to both Lebanese and foreigners including tourism, higher level of education, and financial services;
8. Calls for the Lebanese government to provide enhanced transparency in their actions, to prevent corruption and to improve accountability among the public in ways such as but not limited to:
- a. implementing the Capital Control Act that ensures the government to be more transparent in their policies, which can possibly resolve the current economic crisis in Lebanon in ways such as:
    - i. limiting the flow of foreign capital in and out of the country, which can help stabilize the domestic economy,
    - ii. effectively controlling exchange rates,
    - iii. building more trust in domestic economic policies, which would contribute to the improvement in the control of capital,
  - b. enhancing the public's access to information to fight against corruption and to prevent riots that can hinder the stability of the nation by:
    - i. educating the public with the purpose of providing individuals with the tools to effectively monitor state operations, and public management,
    - ii. enacting laws that allow effective access to public information,
    - iii. strengthening oversight bodies with guarantees of independence,
    - iv. guaranteeing freedom of speech in the media through the safety of journalists who investigate issues relevant to corruption,
    - v. allowing the independence and the diversity of media, which can provide further information to the public
    - vi. encouraging the media and newsletters of Lebanese to handle the government's action every day;
9. Requests for financial support from related organizations and from More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) in solving water shortages and sanitation in Lebanon in ways such as but not limited to:
- a. funding and support from relevant international organizations such as The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Water, ARWO (Association of Regional Water Organizations), WEF (Water Environment Federation), and the World bank in ways such as but not limited to:
    - i. developing technologies for using alternative water resources such as rain water and sewage water,
    - ii. building more water storage facilities,
    - iii. Adaptable Program Loan
    - iv. providing fuel, which are essential for gaining water supply from water stations,

- b. projects to protect the Lebanese, especially vulnerable groups from diseases or harm caused by the lack of water sanitation such as:
    - i. water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) Program by UNICEF to provide better health conditions for children,
    - ii. establishing hospitals within an accessible range of the impoverished that provides complimentary care,
    - iii. sending professionals from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Foundation to carry out health check-ups of children and ensure children are receiving essential nutrients for their development,
    - iv. delivering necessities donated by the individuals of member states to the ones in need;
10. Further requests the Lebanese government enforce actions to resolve famine and food insecurity issues through means such as but not limited to:
- a. encouraging and aiding the farmers for agriculture by:
    - i. supporting the farmers to be more directly connected to the market for revenue,
    - ii. providing constant donations to promote motivation and to aid the farmers financially regarding their agricultural practices,
    - iii. sending professionals from (MEDCs) to aid the Lebanese farmers by passing down agricultural techniques,
    - iv. funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD),
  - b. relieving the impacts of the explosion of the Port of Beirut that has built on food-shortages experienced in Lebanon through the destruction of the essential food imports by:
    - i. the immediate expansion of Beirut's facilities to increase its emergency capacity to offload humanitarian and economic aid,
    - ii. support from the UN World Food Program through the establishment of temporary grain storage facilities in Beirut
    - iii. asking MEDCs and NGOs to construct more silos or expanding existing silos in other ports;
11. Recommends the Lebanese government to initiate actions that can resolve the current issues relevant to electricity shortage in ways such as but not limited to:
- a. initiating governmental projects in establishing the nation's own, independent electricity company,
    - i. training local professionals with the support of MEDCs and World Organizations,
    - ii. developing technologies that could aid in producing electricity,
  - b. supporting professionals in the field of electricity who have worked for the project with prospective welfare such as:
    - i. UN Health and Life Insurance ensures the medical insurances for workers to conduct the projects during the work period
    - ii. ensuring viable governmental pensions after they retire,
    - iii. Provide them tuition and fees for their children

- c. rebuilding the contract with Turkish companies or finding another electricity company until the own independent electricity company officially and feasibly become available,
    - i. holding the contract to be longer than 7 years since the project takes more than 71 months,
    - ii. employing proficient technicians from member nations,
  - d. cooperating with experts in relevant fields in utilizing efficient energy sources that can produce electricity such as:
    - i. Solar Power,
    - ii. Geothermal power,
    - iii. Hydropower;
12. Condemns the need of member states to watch over the Lebanese government and the members in the government that are corrupted and to foster change in the current form of government in ways such as:
- a. dispatch world organization research team such as UN to Lebanon annually to prevent further corruption through means such as:
    - i. utilizing researches such as surveys aimed to the Lebanon citizens,
    - ii. providing rating systems by referencing the critics, articles, thesis, newsletter from inside and outside of Lebanon asserting regard to Lebanon action to ensure the transparency,
  - b. the researches utilize a variety of methods such as but not limited to:
    - i. the researches include surveying Lebanon citizens, refugees, governmental officials, and civil servants,
    - ii. the researches include rating the transparency by referencing the critics, articles, thesis, newsletter from inside and outside of Lebanon asserting regard to Lebanon action;
13. Calls all member states to cooperate to enlarge the scale of raising public awareness on the current situation in Lebanon, including economic crisis, food insecurity, basic human rights, and possible methods in ways such as but not limited:
- a. encouraging campaigns and public events with relevant NGOs and UNOs that can interest and inform the global population about the issues in Lebanon by:
  - b. using social media platforms (Youtube, Face book, etc) to inform the public about the situation in Lebanon;
14. Encourages the Lebanese government to cooperate with organizations such as the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) on supporting, educating, donating and helping areas that have gotten affected by the negative consequences from famine in which do things such as but not limited to:
- a. subsidizing the farmers to ensure they have the budget to buy seeds, fertilizers, agrochemicals, agricultural equipment, and more,

- b. securing additional supplies of key materials of agricultural production (seeds, fertilizers, agrochemicals, etc.) at the governmental level to prevent disruption in production and supply chain,
  - c. purchasing the domestic products from the farmers in a higher price and storing or selling the products at a cheaper price to the citizens during the time of food crisis,
    - i. Conduct the following operative clause first monthly six months during the time of food crisis
    - ii. Make a statistic that shows the efficiency of the operative clause
  - d. improving agricultural technologies in Lebanon in ways such as but not limited to:
    - i. encouraging Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to establish an annual forum on agricultural technology, to invite advanced agricultural experts from different countries and providing privilege for countries like Lebanon who are facing the very serious situation of famine to learn and practice more advanced agricultural technology to increase the total amount of local food produced,
    - ii. welcoming developed countries to provide financial aid to help countries like Lebanon to practice the technologies so that they would be able to do trades with them when they overcome the emergent situation,
  - e. promoting environmentally friendly policies such as reducing food waste and enacting trash classification in ways such as but not limited to:
    - i. calling on education on the importance of dealing with food waste and trash and protecting the environment,
    - ii. urging UN to provide environmental scientist/ experts' intervention on fixing the policies on trash classification and preventing waste;
15. Draws attention to create a new NGO that concentrates on supporting, educating, donating, and helping areas that have gotten affected by the negative consequences from famine in which do things such as but not limited to:
- a. volunteer to work in areas that has been affected from the consequences of famine,
  - b. educate around the world regarding the topic of famine and how to support the nation at home,
  - c. help support the nation financially,
  - d. helps spread proper information about famine and reduce errors of information;
16. Recommends the Lebanese government to establish food security strategies for emergencies and longer terms by adopting emergency food reserves policies of developed nations, which function in following ways but not limited to:

- a. the government requires agricultural import companies to maintain reserve of food, especially staple food such as rice, wheat, and sugar, that can cover demand of 3-4 months,
- b. the government incentivises the private sector companies in doing so in means such as:
  - i. import permits,
  - ii. subsidized bank loans,
  - iii. depreciation schedules,
- c. responsibility of managing the stocks lies on the private sector; reserves are kept in the warehouses of companies,
- d. mandatory inventory agencies are established to support the companies to maintain and manage reserves;

17. Further suggests the government to organize a Lebanese Agriculture Development and Allocation Program (LADAP) with the aid of developed agricultural countries and relevant UNOs and NGOs such as the UNDP, IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), and CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research), which would increase the efficiency of food production, food self-sufficiency, and food supply to civilians, in ways such as but not limited to:

- a. encourage private sector to cooperate with public institutions and government agencies to research methods of increasing efficiency of food production in ways such as not limited to:
  - i. government-guaranteed bank loans at preferential interest rate,
  - ii. tax breaks such as tax deductions, tax credits, and tax exemptions,
  - iii. government grants,
- b. invest in private Lebanese companies related to agricultural innovation and technology, agricultural water management, agricultural resources (e.g. raw materials), agricultural supply chain, and more,
- c. establish partnership among local governments, private sector, local communities, and civil society in the allocation of food to secure supply chain while quickly providing food and strengthening the last mile networks,
- d. cooperate with the United Nation and its organizations to encourage developed countries to donate funds to provide people in Lebanon with food, resources, and medical aid in ways such as holding global campaigns.