

FORUM: The Security Council
QUESTION OF: Situation in Lebanon
MAIN SUBMITTER: France
CO-SUBMITTERS: United States of America, Lebanon, Republic of Chad

The Security Council,

Expressing its concern that the public debt in Lebanon has reached 171.67% of the gross domestic product (GDP) of Lebanon, one of the highest in debt to GDP ratios in the world currently,

Condemning the activity of Hezbollah in the Lebanese region, along with the political interference and actions of Hezbollah associates, through Hassan Nasrallah, as well as 14 of the 128 seats in the Parliament of Lebanon,

Recognizing that the Beirut explosion killed more than 178 people, left more than 6,500 injured, 300,000 people homeless,

Concerned that the current Covid-19 situation has worsened the situation in Lebanon, by limiting the healthcare availability and increasing the economic recession, as well as leading to a limit in other member states' aid regarding the crises in Lebanon,

Alarmed by the fact that according to the World Bank, the Beirut explosion caused between \$3.8 billion and \$4.5 billion in damages in which the health sector was amongst the most damaged, with 292 facilities damaged, which is the 36% of health facilities in the region,

Aware of Lebanon's widespread corruption that accounts for the loss of 2 billion US dollars in customs annually and the loss of citizens' trust in the government,

Affirming the efforts of Lebanese government to solve the issue of corruption in reference to the documentation of The National Anti-Corruption Strategy, Access to Information Law, and Anti-Corruption Law,

Conscious of the fact that the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP) was launched in 2011 by the Lebanese Government with technical and financial assistance from the World Bank which is a poverty-targeted social safety net program for the poorest and most vulnerable Lebanese families,

Taking note of the sectarianism in Lebanon among religious groups, especially the Shia and Sunni Muslims, that lead to prejudice, discrimination, and terrorist militias such as the Hezbollah,

Taking note of Saad Hariri's attempt to form a unified government in 2009, which was initially successful, but eventually was collapsed due to the resignation of the opposed party's leader and ministers in 2010,

MAIN SUBMITTED BY: United States

1. Requests the reform of the Lebanese legislation and government in order to combat the excessive corruption evident within Lebanon, as well as promoting the political stability of the country as a whole, which will in turn have economic advantages and decrease violence, by means such as but not limited to:
 - a. implementing an asset recovery office, which will be organized to recover specific assets to the Lebanese economy and government that were stolen by officials, taking specific actions such as:
 - i. investigating officials that are suspect for committing corruption crimes without warning,
 - ii. prioritizing the recovery of lost assets such as money, technologies, or weaponry that will be beneficial to the continuing stabilization and development of the Lebanese territory,
 - iii. publicizing actions of recovering valuable state assets in order to improve the population outlook upon the Lebanese government, and inform them of actions that are being taken against corruption,
 - iv. utilizing the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) organization, which aids nations in asset recovery involving valuable assets that have been taken illicitly,
 - b. constructing a new political system, which will ensure the willingness of Lebanon to reform itself and bring about new changes, thereby also increasing the amount of foreign aid, since many member states hesitate to invest in Lebanon because of the lack of reform so far, making political changes such as but not limited to:
 - i. dissociation of confessionalism and the multiple sects that divide the government through the election of all officials by the public, not solely off of their religious association,
 - ii. improving relations between opposing political parties through monitored meetings by the United Nations Department of Political and Peacemaking Affairs, with the goal of reaching agreements to a unified government between both parties,
 - iii. condemning members of office that associate themselves with various militia groups within Lebanon, but most notably Hezbollah, which represents a large amount of Lebanese parliament and can be seen as a main factor in political division and corruption,
 - c. introducing new laws as well as strengthening the existing Lebanese laws in accordance with the UNCAC, which has guidelines to monitor and prevent corruption, as well as enforcing anti-criminal measures, laws such as but not limited to:
 - i. strengthening existing laws such as the Whistleblower Protection Law and the Anti-Corruption Law by publicizing documents related to corruption laws as well as clearly outlining the punishment that will be ascribed to corrupted officials, for the purpose of combatting the corruption crisis,
 - ii. establishing new laws that increase punishments to those in directly association with corruption efforts, as well as laws that allow for the

- immediate investigation of officials under suspicion or in the event of irregularities,
- iii. establishing new laws that encourage transparency among political officials, in ways such as introducing more access to information in the public, following and improving upon the Access to Information Law;

MAIN SUBMITTED BY: France

2. Urges the relevant United Nations Organizations (UNOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), such as World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), The Hunger Project, Concern Worldwide, and the Borgen Project to assist the Lebanese people living in poverty and instability in such ways, but not limited to:
 - a. building fundamental constructions in every central locations of the less-developed areas including:
 - i. public health centers,
 - ii. welfare centers for the old, young, and disabled, etc.,
 - b. establishing an education team whose specific work includes the following:
 - i. selecting high-quality educational resources and finding high-quality teachers without delaying the teaching level of students in MEDC,
 - ii. ensuring the stability and professionalism of teachers in the education industry, as it is better to ensure that teachers can consistently continue to carry out education in Lebanon,
 - iii. setting up incentive mechanism for teachers and providing additional bonus and privileges to teachers who are willing to carry out education in Lebanon,
 - iv. doing regular inspections of the educational status of teachers in Lebanon to facilitate the timely addition and updating of teachers, thus maintaining the quality of education,
 - c. supplying citizens with the need of food and daily necessities during the COVID-19 pandemic by utilizing delivery services,
 - d. providing health care assistance to the people in danger immediately from the doctors with medical license by:
 - i. having doctors from Doctors Without Borders placed across the country's less developed areas,
 - ii. providing free COVID-19 testing among the populations living in poverty by working with the government,
 - iii. employing skilled doctors from MEDCs,
 - iv. placing volunteer doctors and nurses in the temporary health care centers,
 - e. expand the supply of water in Lebanon by:
 - i. receiving water resources donated from neighboring countries with sufficient clean water through relevant UNOs and NGOs,
 - ii. utilizing alternative water resources such as rainwater, heavy water, and sewage reuse with the aid from Global Water Challenge (and the Water Project),

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- iii. improving and constructing the sewage systems for the access of clean water with the assistance from Engineers Without Borders (EWB);

MAIN SUBMITTED BY: United States

- 3. Calls for the maintenance and reconstruction of the Lebanese economy, which has undergone significant recession and stress due to political conflicts, corruption, and the recent COVID-19 pandemic:
 - a. standardizing, once the inflation rate settles in at an acceptable value, a lower interest rate to increase aggregate demand and to encourage borrowing and entrepreneurship,
 - b. following and utilizing the advice of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a guideline to help to reboot the economy by means such as:
 - i. tax increases,
 - ii. lowering state spending,
 - iii. privatization,
 - iv. restructuring public debt by decreasing the share of short-term treasury bills to total debt, thereby decreasing short-term debt,
 - v. prioritizing the full reopening of the banking sector to alleviate the burden of spending upon the public,
 - c. creating a government financial department to combat the issues of the Lebanese economy, including balance of payments and currency crisis, public finance, and the flow of money used in social welfares, in association with Transparency International and taking actions such as but not limited to:
 - i. holding meetings to discuss the financial situation in the nation as well as solving financial crises,
 - ii. giving full transparent reports to the public regarding the financial situation,
 - iii. publicizing solutions and recommended actions for the Lebanese crisis in order to solve at-hand problems including the liquidity crisis,
 - d. implementing a more fiscally conservative economic policy if and when reasonably achievable without hampering growth significantly to limit the rate at which the country's public debt is growing, which includes measures such as:
 - i. Higher overall individual and corporate tax rate,
 - ii. Lower or equal overall government spending;

MAIN SUBMITTED BY: Chad

- 4. Strongly suggests that the political tensions and conflict within Lebanon are deescalated in order to promote the safety of the public and economic recovery, taking measures to:
 - a. strengthen national security and military forces, which allows for greater control of the Lebanese territory by a united Lebanese government and subsequently loosening the power of Hezbollah in the region:

- i. accepting and making use of foreign security aid and military technologies, such as large transport and armed vehicles, personal weapons, and explosives,
 - ii. mandating extensive military training with advanced and high-tech weaponry, giving Lebanese forces greater advantages over non-state paramilitary forces,
 - iii. publicizing the need for stronger security forces in order to recruit more military personnel through means such as social media, advertisement boards, radio, and television,
- b. lessening the power of Hezbollah within the political system, which has often caused a reluctance to political reforms and has become an obstacle in making major decisions:
 - i. disallowing government officials to associate themselves with Hezbollah,
 - ii. condemning Hezbollah as a terrorist organization within Lebanon, and discouraging interactions with Hezbollah forces,
 - iii. illegalizing the funding of Hezbollah by Shiite Muslims and encouraging the representation of Shiite Muslims through peaceful political election;

MAIN SUBMITTED BY: Lebanon

- 5. Further recommends Lebanon to increase religious tolerance of government and society with help from UNOs and NGOs through such ways but not limited to:
 - a. creating inclusive political parties that are not based on religion through gradual changes in the government in such ways but not limited to:
 - i. encouraging and allowing the formation of parties that do not adhere to the sectarianism system,
 - ii. promoting religious tolerance and encouraging citizens to pursue the formation of religiously diverse parties,
 - b. promoting the integration of religion in society in such ways but not limited to:
 - i. including education about respecting religious differences and the negative effects of sectarianism in the school curriculum,
 - ii. Posting public advertising on various media such as but not limited to television, newspapers, and social media that denounce religious stereotypes and promote cooperation between religions,
 - iii. heavily punishing acts of violence between sects, especially attacks on civilians,
 - c. combatting the Hezbollah through such ways but not limited to:
 - i. police effort,
 - ii. deployment of peacekeepers by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
 - iii. cooperating with The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).