



Statement

by

**H.E. Dr. Nawaf Salam
Permanent Representative of Lebanon
to the United Nations**

**at the
High-Level Event on Climate Change**

New York, June 29, 2015

Check against Delivery

Distinguished Moderator,

Allow me first to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this very timely “High-Level Meeting,” especially that Cop21 will open in Paris in 5 months.

My country, Lebanon, is a country of about 4 million people and 10.500 square kilometers; its gas emissions are insignificant at the global level. However, my country is suffering from the implications of warming, resulting not from its own emissions, but from global warming.

In a nutshell, be it small or big, developed or developing, no country is immune from climate change. Temperatures are projected to increase in the next 30 to 60 years, between 1 and 5 Degrees Celsius if we do not act, and act fast. Likewise, rainfall is projected to decrease by 25 to 50% over the same period. An irreversible decrease in the total volume of water will also be aggravated by urbanization and population growth. In fact, in our part of the world - that is the Middle East - droughts have already been identified to be among the factors leading to serious crises, as in Syria. Shortages and unfair water policies are exacerbating violence in the West Bank. Such challenges have been further heightened in Lebanon by the environmental impact of the refugee crisis, leading to an increase of over 10% in the demand of water and an augmentation of up to 20% in emission of air pollutants among other dreadful repercussions.

Distinguished Moderator,

Lebanon has voluntarily committed in Copenhagen, in 2009, to increase its renewable energy mix to 12% by 2020. In addition to fixing such goal in the energy sector, my country has adopted a series of new policies and measures to scale up mitigation and adaptation activities, mainly in both the waste management and transport sector. My government is also encouraging partnerships with local communities at the municipal level and with actors in the private sector.

Distinguished Moderator,

Whether on the mitigation or the adaptation side, it remains that no national policy can succeed by itself. We need a collective commitment as well as bold and concrete actions. In this context, it is imperative that the Green Climate Fund be capitalized and that the 100 billion dollars be mobilized by 2020. Pledges are not enough.

Finally, Climate Change and Sustainable Development are two sides of the same coin, as Secretary-General Ban reminded us this morning. Therefore, with focusing on the upcoming Cop21 in Paris, let us also redouble our efforts to make the Financing For Development (FfD) Conference in Addis Ababa a success and to ensure that the Post 2015 Agenda is adopted in September in New York.

Thank you.