



Statement

by

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**at the
General Debate**

**of the
Second Committee**

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Check Against Delivery

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Mr. Chairman,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you and members of the Bureau on your election to steer the work of the Second Committee during the current General Assembly. You can count on our delegation's full support and constructive engagement during the Committee's deliberations.

The current General Assembly carries a special weight and significance, being held within the context of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations, and shortly after the adoption of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Accord.

Agenda 2030 reaffirmed the International Community's collective commitment to eradicate poverty and hunger in all their forms and dimensions, and emphasized the importance of integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development to achieve enduring economic growth, reduce inequalities and protect the environment for the benefit of future generations. The Agenda acknowledged the inter-linkages between sustainable development and peace as mutually beneficial realities, stressed the importance of justice, good governance, the rule of law, gender equality, women empowerment and human rights as fundamental enablers for its 17 goals and 169 targets.

Mr. Chairman,

The adoption of the Post 2015 Development Agenda is only the beginning of our long trek to realise the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. Focus must now shift towards the provision of adequate means of implementation through a revitalized global partnership that draws on public and private financial resources, builds capacities and facilitates the transfer of technology to developing countries.

The United Nations and its specialized agencies and programs will have a vital role in supporting governments in the implementation phase through the provision of the necessary expertise and resources, and a central role in the follow up phase at the global level through the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. In this regard, it is worth noting the importance of the work currently carried out by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to develop a global indicator framework that will be adopted by the UN Statistical Commission next March, and we look forward to its outcome.

Mr. Chairman,

It is the firm belief of our Delegation that one of the main tasks of the Second Committee during the 70th Session of the General Assembly is to find how best to incorporate the contents of Agenda 2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Accord into the Committee's agenda items, and eventually into the language of the different General Assembly resolutions addressing Sustainable Development.

Mr. Chairman,

In the course of the next 12 months, world leaders will reconvene in two conferences of paramount importance that will address two of the most stressing challenges facing our world today, the UN Climate Change Conference that will be held in Paris in November and December 2015, and the World Humanitarian Summit that will be held in Istanbul in May 2016. Lebanon attaches high importance to the outcome of both conferences.

On the Climate Change front, Lebanon aims to embark on a long term low-emission and climate resilient development trajectory to ensure a sustainable future for its population. Adaptation will be a priority. Being a developing country with a high population density in coastal areas, Lebanon is already facing and will continue to face several challenges as a result of climate change. By 2040, temperatures are expected to rise locally by around 1°C on the coast and 2°C in the mainland, and rainfall is projected to decrease by 10-20%. This will put pressure on national water security and produce knock-on effects in sectors such as agriculture, where around 70% of available water is being used for irrigation. The importance of adaptation will be clearly highlighted in the National Sustainable Development Strategy which is currently being developed by the Government. Under UNFCCC, Lebanon will commit to an unconditional target of 15% reduction in Green House Gas emissions by 2030, and a target of 30% reduction upon the provision of additional international support.

Mr. Chairman,

In Istanbul next year, the World Humanitarian Summit will address the biggest forced displacement crisis that has been witnessed since the end of World War II, stemming mainly from the ongoing crisis in Syria and Iraq, and Lebanon plans on participating effectively in the negotiations leading to the Summit Outcome.

The crisis in Syria has had a devastating impact on Lebanon's security, development, economic activity and environment, increased inequalities, and overstretched the capacity of our national institutions in the fields of healthcare, education, energy, water and sanitation and security.

The international response has unfortunately not met resources needed to address a crisis of this magnitude and length. The international community approached the crisis initially from the narrow scope of humanitarian funding, and by merely praising the neighboring countries for "keeping the borders open" without providing them with appropriate development assistance or burden sharing in terms of finance and resettlement. The refugee crisis facing Europe today is a direct consequence of that inadequate response.

In this regard, we welcome the recognition of forced displacement of people as a result of spiraling conflict, violent extremism and terrorism in the 2030 Agenda, and the recognition of the need to strengthen the resilience of host communities of refugees, particularly in developing countries. We also welcome the recognition in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda the need for the coherence of developmental and humanitarian finance in the management and mitigation of complex emergencies.

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

The marine oil spill, which was caused by Israel's destruction of the oil storage tanks at the Jiyeh electric power plant, south of Beirut, in July 2006, continues to impact human health, economic growth and the efforts to achieve sustainable development in Lebanon. The inability to contain the spread of the spilled oil in the early critical stages after the attack, due to the Israeli air and marine military blockade at the time, has led to prolonged adverse effects that still exist today.

In this regard, Lebanon continues to rely on the support of the International Community to adopt once again the "Oil Slick on Lebanese Shores" GA Resolution that requests Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to Lebanon for the costs of repairing the environmental damage caused by the oil spill which amounted to 856.4 million US dollars in 2014.

Thank you.