



Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Tammam Salam

President of the Council of Ministers

of the Republic of Lebanon

at the High-level Signature Ceremony

for the Paris Agreement

New York, April 22, 2016

Check Against Delivery

*Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY 10017*

Excellencies Heads of States,
H.E. UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon,
Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Lebanese Government, allow me first to express my appreciation to see, that we have finally agreed on our common future, through a concrete tool – the Paris Agreement – that will hopefully change the future of our people and help us cope with one of the biggest environmental, social and economic challenges of our time.

I would also like to stress Lebanon's commitment to fully assume its role as an active member of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and to fulfill the long term goal of the Paris Agreement.

The Intended Nationally Determined Contribution which Lebanon submitted in advance of the Paris meeting speaks for itself. This transparent, inclusive action plan, based on extensive consultations with all relevant national and international stakeholders, is built into Lebanon's goals and included in its roadmap towards the National Sustainable Development Strategy.

Lebanon sees climate action as an opportunity not only to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience, but also to solve many of our environmental, social and economic challenges.

Lebanon has always met its obligations and will complete the ratification of the Paris Agreement as soon as possible, as we believe that whatever climate action we invest in, we will harvest prosperity and wellbeing in the future.

As many of you, Lebanon will not wait until 2020 to start working. Three Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions are now complete or under preparation in the sectors of waste, transport and forestry, and await funding.

Non State Actors are mobilized, multiplying investment in renewable energy and reforestation. Pilot projects and guidelines to increase resilience of the most vulnerable communities are mushrooming. However, more support from international donors is needed.

Excellencies, our region is profoundly unsettled by the ongoing turmoil.

This instability is probably our biggest constraint towards achieving our climate targets.

But, Lebanon is fully committed to joining efforts with the international community to eradicate poverty, improve public health, educate people and enhance infrastructure and resources efficiency.

We have already done a lot despite the significant shortage of means and the complex challenges currently facing the country for hosting more than 1.2 million displaced persons.

International solidarity in addressing these challenges is indispensable.

Let's prove the world right, and show what the combined will of our countries can achieve, even in the most difficult of times.

Thank you.