



**Statement**

**by**

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

**at the**

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the Economic and Social Council**

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*Check against Delivery*

Mr. President,

For the past decade, the level of humanitarian need and suffering has grown tremendously, reaching alarming numbers. Forced displacement has reached an unprecedented level since WWII. From natural disaster to armed conflict, violent persecution and terrorism, millions of women, men and children are in need of humanitarian assistance, while shortage in funding remained at its highest, leading UN officials to say the system is broke but still not broken.

Despite this gloomy picture, many positive developments in the past months bring us to believe that this is the year the world has awakened to the need to restore our common humanity.

The adoption last September of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a pledge to Leave No One Behind, is a cornerstone in this regard.

The first ever World Humanitarian Summit, last month was an opportunity for all stakeholders to gather around the five core responsibilities defined in the Secretary General's Agenda for Humanity. A number of issues of high importance have been put forward. To name but a few: the necessity to work at the global level to prevent and end conflicts and build peaceful and inclusive societies, to uphold the norms that safeguard humanity and ensure respect of human rights and Humanitarian International Law, to protect civilians in armed conflicts, and to ensure the right to quality education to all children.

Most importantly, it remains that we need now to tune up our tools and move to concrete results to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability. In this regard, allow me, to highlight three priorities for my country:

One: Solidarity and responsibility sharing, as a fundamental driving principle for any action in humanitarian situation.

Two: Developmental assistance, for people affected by humanitarian situations, with a special emphasis on the needs of host communities of large movements of displaced and refugees.

Three: The safe return of displaced and refugees to their country of origin as a priority goal, with an emphasis on the need to achieve necessary political solutions and to assist in reconstruction efforts.

Mr. President,

Lebanon, with its 1.2 million registered Syrian refugees and more than 400 thousand Palestinian refugees living in camps across the country for more than six decades has the highest rate of refugees per capita. It stands as a living example of the challenges, difficulties and threats to its very existence that a host country could face as a result of mass displacement. Lebanon's plight in response to this humanitarian crisis is also an experience to reflect on in restoring humanity and leaving no one behind.

The mass influx of Syrian refugees into Lebanon has overstretched the country's infrastructure in many sectors including education, health, energy, water and sanitation, reducing housing capacity, increasing unemployment levels, seriously affecting the economic activity and investment climate, and threatening its security.

Furthermore, let me stress that the "Lebanon Crisis Response Plan" (LCRP) developed by the Government of Lebanon and its international partners still falls short of more than 60% of the required funding.

Needless to say that the success of this vision will only depend on how international partners respond to it and support Lebanon to uphold the central pillars of providing humanitarian assistance, education for all children, and the expansion of economic opportunities and jobs.

Mr. President,

We look forward for the fruitful discussions and thematic exchange during this session.

Thank you for your attention.