



**Statement of Lebanon**

**by**

**Mr. Hassan Abbas  
Counsellor**

**at the  
General Debate**

**of the  
Second Committee**

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*Check Against Delivery*

*Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations  
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Mr. Chairman,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election to steer the work of the Second Committee during the 71st General Assembly. You can count on our delegation's full support and constructive engagement.

The Committee's work during the current Session will carry a particular importance in the context of the follow up and implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. As we embark into the second year of the implementation phase, 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.

In Lebanon, we are currently in the final stages of drafting our own National Sustainable Development Plan, which will be aligned with Agenda 2030's goals and targets, while also introducing our own country-specific targets. The Plan will cover the country's different economic sectors, such as industry, agriculture, finance, and tourism, in addition to addressing the challenges facing our public services such as electricity, water, water treatment, renewable energy, and transport.

While all 17 SDG's will be covered in our National Plan, more attention will naturally be given to those goals which were identified as more urgent within the national context. Consultations are currently being led by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, involving all concerned ministries and government agencies. They will also involve all other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, the academic community, and UN agencies operating in Lebanon.

Mr. Chairman

The current Session of the General Assembly was launched with a High-Level Meeting on Migrants and Refugees, which was triggered by the largest wave of forced displacement that is facing the planet since World War II.

Since 2011, Lebanon has been engulfed by a protracted humanitarian crisis triggered by the influx of more than 1.2 million Syrian refugees as a result of the crisis in Syria. This has posed immense social, demographic, environmental and economic pressures on our country, reducing its economic growth prospects, aggravating unemployment, and exacerbating the vulnerabilities of Lebanese host communities by over-stretching their limited resources and infrastructure. Addressing such a formidable challenge will require, in addition to short term humanitarian assistance, delivering longer term development financing on concessional terms to Lebanon and other developing countries hosting large numbers of refugees, which are literally providing a "global public good". Failing to do so would seriously curtail our ability to implement Agenda 2030 and our National Sustainable Development Plan.

Needless to say Mr. Chairman,

The implementation of this universal and integrated Agenda will stretch the financial, institutional and human capacities of most developing countries, including middle income countries. Hence, the role of the United Nations Development System (UNDS) will be crucial in assisting developing countries during the implementation and follow-up phases through the provision of integrated normative support, evidence-based policy advice, and capacity building in areas such as data collection, and technology facilitation. The UNDS role will also be essential in facilitating partnerships, bringing together stakeholders and mobilizing the necessary domestic and international public and private resources for a successful implementation of the Agenda.

In order for the UNDS to fulfill this role in the most efficient manner, it is our view that this would require, among other things:

- 1) A more coherent and integrated UN Development Assistance Framework.
- 2) A revitalized and strengthened Resident Coordinator system.
- 3) Predictable, sustainable and flexible funding for UNDS operations.
- 4) Improved coordination and coherence between development and humanitarian activities, particularly in situations of protracted crises.

With this objective and view in mind, our Delegation will be engaging constructively in the negotiations on the new Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) Resolution that will be adopted during this Session.

It is worth noting in this regard, that Lebanon is on the verge of signing a new United Nation Strategic Framework (UNSF) with the United Nations System in Lebanon for the period 2017-2020, which will replace the previous UNDAF for the period 2010-2016. The new Framework will seek to address the multi-dimensional challenges facing Lebanon today, and recognizes that an effective UN response to support Lebanon in maintaining peace, stability and development requires unity of purpose and the integration of strategies and interventions under a common vision. It proposes leveraging and integrating the UN's diverse expertise, capacities and resources to support the Government of Lebanon to meet its priorities and manage security, political, governance and socio-economic challenges to stability. The approach also aims to support Lebanon on the path to longer term sustainable development in accordance with the vision, principles and goals of Agenda 2030.

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

Let me remind that 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, once again, adopt the “Oil slick on Lebanese shores” resolution, which 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.

Thank you.