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Solutions Numbers Actions



2022



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On Politics, Governance and State Building

History is marked with pivotal moments that determine the path upon which a nation's future is set. The 2022 parliamentary elections is one of those critical crossroads in the history of Lebanon; the effects and results of which will reverberate for the decades to come in terms of rules, regulations, and the identity of Lebanon as a whole.

Where is Lebanon heading? A question all of us Lebanese must answer to on May 15 by making a choice between two dichotomous suppositions:

The rule of law or the will of gangs and traffickers? A strong national army or a submission to the arsenal of a foreign-backed non-state actor? Modern and transparent state institutions or a government ruled by corrupt politicians and their cronies? Good relations with the Arab and international communities or a deeper status of isolation? Openness to the world or seclusion into the dark corners of fanaticism and backwardness?

Will we opt for a society that respects the values of freedom, democracy, human dignity, and equal opportunity for all, or will we settle for one that practices discrimination, mistreats women and children, and favors violence and the culture of death?

Is Lebanon to remain the bridge between East and West, faithful to its universal mission, a model of tolerance and coexistence between Christianity and Islam, and a land of hospitality? Or is it to become a main pawn in an axis of terrorism, dictatorship and rogue totalitarian states?

Will we favor a democratic "Strong Republic" where liberties, rights and duties of citizens are protected by modern and transparent state institutions? Or will we be content with the continuing decline of the country's infrastructure, services, wealth, and quality of life among other things?

Are we satisfied with the alliance between the mafia of corruption and the militia of Hezbollah that bankrupted the state Treasury and forced the productive generation to leave the homeland looking for opportunities in foreign countries?



Should the Lebanese people accept without contestation the loss of their savings, retirement funds and bank accounts or should they seek to regain them and, at the same time, hold those responsible accountable?



Will the Lebanese opt for changing a corrupt system that deprived them of basic needs such as around-the-clock electricity, potable water, appropriate sewage systems, paved roads, medicine, hospitalization, fuel, and heating? Should the Lebanese vindicate whoever left them humiliated, diseased and food-insecure?

Will the Lebanese acquiesce to the deprivation of justice and the undeterred obstruction of the investigations into the August 4, 2020 Beirut port explosion? Will we accept anything less than the full truth despite the authorities' many attempts at providing immunity for presidents, members of parliament and high-ranked officials?

Should the Lebanese parents remain destined to bid farewell to their daughters and sons who are forced to emigrate or work abroad in the hopes of securing a decent future for themselves and for their elders?

Fellow Lebanese,

This is the challenge that we all must rise to in order preserve the Lebanon we want: a Lebanon of human rights, freedoms, a dignified life, modern institutions, rule of law and good governance. A Lebanese state that is competent, non-corrupt and accountable to an independent judiciary.

The Lebanese Forces Party (LFP) urges you to take part in this democratic challenge by voting for its candidates in the upcoming 2022 Parliamentary elections. We ask you to join forces with us in this pivotal electoral battle during which you have the opportunity to express your hopes and aspirations for real change.

Together, we can reach this goal despite intimidation and coercion. Together, we can defend the values of the Lebanese people; values that the LFP has turned into constants on the political, constitutional, economic, social, educational and cultural levels. Let these principles be once more at the foundation of Lebanon's relationship with its diaspora, the Arab world, and the international community. Let them serve once more, and forever, as a guide to Lebanon's commitment to universal human causes.

The values for which the Lebanese Forces representatives aspire will be materialized through draft laws, workshops, public plans, ministerial strategies, and regional/municipal development projects. They will be executed with the highest standards of quality by our party's ministers, members of parliament and locally elected officials. Indeed, even our fiercest political opponents have testified to the efficiency, integrity, and transparency of our elected officials. We stand firm in never deviating from such quality performance in any work that a LFP representative embarks on.

Based on the above, we invite you to elect the candidates that make up the LFP lists across Lebanon. They represent a coherent and cohesive group of partisans, allies and independent figures. Their common objective is to transform laws, plans, decisions and aspirations into palpable achievements.

LFP members, supporters, friends, and the conscientiously opinionated Lebanese people, We invite you to stand up for the truth and objectively hold accountable those who failed to deliver and caused your current misery. Your vote is how you cast your discontent with the mismanagement and corruption that you fell prey to. Punish them in the ballot boxes in a democratic way. Reward those who remained true to your values and proved their competence, integrity and determination.

Take charge. "Temple merchants" i.e. the corrupt, should be in the dustbin of history rather than in renewed positions of power.

Fellow citizens,

Unfounded generalization is an antithesis to democracy. In this democratic battle, do not let such unfounded generalizations stain an otherwise clean track record of a righteous group of officials, even if those were only a handful.

Stand on the right side of history by electing those who remained faithful to their convictions and adopted a clean political line. Choose those who materialized their promises into honorable and transparent actions.

The main problems to be addressed democratically through parliamentary elections

Problem #1: Hezbollah's dominance over the Lebanese state

- Hezbollah believes in the supremacy of the Islamic Revolution in Iran over the Lebanese interests and constitution.
- Hezbollah's arsenal is antithetic to the principle of a state's monopoly over the use of force. The party refuses to hand over its weapons to the legitimate state authorities in accordance with the Taif Agreement, thus dominating the decision of war and peace.
- Hezbollah has resorted to using its weapons internally and against the Lebanese people. The party has been implicated in political assassinations targeting those who oppose it and has engaged in armed invasions and aggressions.
- Hezbollah holds sway over vital state facilities such as the seaport and the airport, and has hindered their operations.
- Hezbollah is actively obstructing justice by issuing threats against the judiciary and against individual judges.
- Hezbollah maintains smuggling operations and provides security to its own routes and corridors on the Lebanese-Syrian border in order to ensure an uninterrupted flow of income at the expense of the Lebanese people.
- Hezbollah has prevented the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions (namely UNSCR 1559, 1680, and 1701) and does not abide by the international and Arab agreements that were signed by Lebanon.
- Hezbollah endeavors to shake the nation's stability, which is essential to any prosperous economy.
- Hezbollah seeks to reshape the structure of the Lebanese system and to manipulate Lebanon's economic and social identity.
- Hezbollah has contributed to the collapse of the free liberal economy, the flight of capital from Lebanon, and the cessation of foreign investments.
- Hezbollah is trying to impose a totalitarian regime by suppressing freedoms of expression, be it on a media or an individual level.
- Hezbollah is destroying Lebanon's cultural and civilized image, due to Hezbollah being categorized as a terrorist organization.
- Hezbollah is undeterred in its interference in regional conflicts resulting in Lebanon becoming isolated from its Arab neighbors, subject to international sanctions and even boycotted by its Arab and western friends.
- Hezbollah is turning Lebanon into a bargaining chip in the hands of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards.
- Hezbollah is subjecting Lebanon to destructive wars and causing its political and economic isolation, both regionally and internationally.

Problem #2: Hezbollah's covering of corruption in the government and its Institutions

Hezbollah provides political and military coverage for systemic and individual corruption in state institutions, government departments and all public functions. In exchange, the party obtains political cover for its regional choices, and military adventures and interventions in favor of the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The intellectual, constitutional and political ideals of the Lebanese Forces

Before delving into the desired solutions, we must first return to the Political Charter of the Lebanese Forces Party, which was published in 2012. From it we draw inspiration pertaining to our party's guiding principles. Said principles constitute the launch pad for any and all of our strategic plans culminating in a roadmap out of the current state of corruption and waning sovereignty and independence.

The Political Charter emphasizes the following ideals:

The sanctity of political engagement through organized and democratic party action

- Upholding the culture of dialogue and institutional organization
- Reconciling between freedom and commitment to the cause of the homeland and the human being
- Promoting awareness of individual rights and duties
- Changing the pattern of political practice and transforming it into a free, deep and conscious political commitment to serve the public interest and the liberation of the citizen

The pluralism of the Lebanese society and the clarity of the Lebanese identity and citizenship

- Respecting the specificities of the pluralistic Lebanese society in all its components and cultures.
- Fostering coexistence to the extent of it becoming reflective of true harmony and mutual respect.
- Preserving the identity resulting from the interaction of various civilizations on the land of Lebanon throughout history and the convergence of multiple religions and spiritual families as the epitome of a pioneering historical experience of cultural integration.

The finality of the Lebanese national entity within its current borders, as stipulated in the Constitution

- Defending the territory, entity and sovereignty of the Lebanese state over the entirety of the 10,452 square kilometers.
- Ensuring equality among all Lebanese citizens in accordance with the principles stipulated in the National Reconciliation Accord.

The rule of law and institutions and the preservation of freedoms

- The safety of the community in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all charters and covenants issued by the United Nations, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights, as well as the Charter of the Arab League for Human Rights.
- The State is the only legitimate entity entrusted with sovereignty and responsible for protecting citizens and residents.
- Viewing the political system as a means of managing the state and not an end in itself.
- The proper application of the political system presupposes a healthy political practice that transforms society into a force for change by rejecting traditional political practices and refusing to submit to political feudalism.

Roadmap to the Solution

The road towards a strong republic must be comprised of integrated project that includes restoring sovereignty, rebuilding the state, combating corruption and ending mass emigration. This should be done through economic, social, educational, diaspora-related and foreign policies that achieve the goals of sustainable development all the while maintaining the Lebanese public interest at heart and restoring confidence in Lebanon.

General Political Solution

- Upholding the principle of monopoly over the use of force as a right exclusive to the State and limiting the decision of war and peace to the executive authority.
- Weapons outside the control of the legitimate authorities have proven to pose a great danger to the stability of the state, to people's livelihood and to the economy. Consequently, controlling Hezbollah's weapons, and reinstating State authority over the decision of war and peace, have become two of the necessary avenues to resolving the multiple Lebanese crises.
- Implementing international resolutions, especially UN Resolutions 1559, 1701 and 1680.
- Resorting to an international force to control eastern borders in accordance with UN Resolution 1701.
- Demarking land and sea borders.
- Controlling the borders, including legal and illegal crossings.
- Taking all measures to protect the sovereignty of the State, and to protect the oil reserves.

Positive Neutrality

The best way for Lebanon to restore its relations with friendly and brotherly Arab countries and return to its positioning on the international level is to adopt a neutral stance vis-à-vis the regional conflicts, and to play a positive role through its commitment to the decisions of the Arab League.

- Keeping Lebanon and the Lebanese people away from conflicts and regional axes.
- Participating in the positive initiatives issued by friendly countries that are compatible with Lebanon's Constitution.
- Confirming and protecting the positive neutrality by documenting it at the Arab league and at the United Nations.
- Confirming the armistice agreement as stated in Clause B of the third paragraph (the Liberation of Lebanon from the Israeli Occupation) of the National Reconciliation Accord.

Expanded Decentralization

The centralized system has proven ineffective and unable to meet the aspirations of the Lebanese citizens of all regions and social backgrounds. Administrative and financial decentralization enhances local economic productivity and prosperity, guarantees financial flexibility, streamlines government administrative services, and achieves sustainable local development. All while taking into account the social and cultural differences, as well as the lifestyle of each region.

- Enabling regulatory decision-making at the local level.

- Adopting a local administrative scope at a scale that allows the completion of projects with appropriate financial resources.
- Electing local administrations.
- Adopting a local fiscal and financial system that allows managing local resources and services.

The Return of the Displaced

The LFP categorically refuses the mass naturalization of refugees in Lebanon, and calls for the immediate return of the displaced Syrians to safe zones in their country.

The party had presented to the government several initiatives for safe and dignified return of the displaced to safe zones along the Syrian-Lebanese border (on the Syrian side) and under UN supervision to ensure safety and support. These safe zones are to be followed by successive return of the displaced to their hometowns within Syria. In the same context, the Lebanese Forces emphasized the need to deport displaced Syrians who publicly supported the Syrian regime and voted for it during the recent phony elections at the Syrian embassy in Lebanon. In fact, their support of the regime automatically deprives them of the status of persecuted refugees, and makes their presence in Lebanon unjustified and noncompliant with the required international conditions.

Actions Taken

- On January 5, 2021 a query was sent to the government about its position on the statement of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Air Force commander, after the latter had stated that Lebanon was the main front line in the conflict between Iran and Israel. The LFP asked the government to summon the Iranian ambassador and express its objection.
- On March 31, 2021 we called on the government to take full measures to preserve Lebanon's maritime border rights in the north.
- On March 14, 2021 we demanded the amendment of Decree 6433 to enable Lebanon to benefit from all of Lebanon's oil fields in the south.
- On May 18, 2021 we submitted a parliamentary petition to the Speaker of Parliament to form a parliamentary investigation committee regarding the issue of smuggling across the Lebanese border, after we submitted several judicial notifications.
- On May 18, 2021 we demanded that Foreign Minister Charbel Wehbe be questioned and that constitutional measures be taken against him following his offensive statements against the Arab countries and their people in the Gulf.
- On September 28, 2021 we submitted a query to the government about its role in the issue of Iranian oil and the government's knowledge of illegal activities.
- During our tenure as ministers, we constantly and urgently demanded the government control of illegal border trafficking.
- We supported the initiative of Patriarch Mar Bechara Boutros Al-Rahi regarding Neutrality.

On Rebuilding the State and its Structure

The Electoral Process

One cannot separate any electoral program from the electoral process itself, because introducing reforms to the latter is the unavoidable path to reaching free and fair elections, which will produce a parliament that has representative legitimacy and is able to pass the required reforms.

Ensuring the Integrity of Elections by Respecting the Three Principles:

- Freedom of expression of political opinion.
- The right to access information.
- Equality before the law and equal opportunities.
- Appointing the elections' supervisory body and enabling it to exercise its oversight functions.
- Preserving the right of expatriates to vote for the 128 MPs.
- Insisting on establishing mega-centers and resorting to a magnetic ID card for voting as soon as conditions permit.
- Forming an international election monitoring committee to ensure transparency.



The Parliament

The work of Parliament has undoubtedly been subject to many blunders in recent decades, and the same applies for all constitutional institutions.

If the LFP were empowered, the first step we will take is to ensure proper parliamentary work, through:

- Confronting any manipulation of the Constitution, especially with regard to the sovereignty of constitutional institutions over public affairs.
- Ensuring the implementation of all pre-approved laws that were not endorsed by the government, through clear mechanisms and deadlines.
- Adopting electronic voting.
- Adopting policies, benchmarks and guidelines to measure legislative impact.
- Publishing all laws, proposals and draft laws on the Parliament's website.

Actions Taken

- In 2017, we actively contributed to the adoption of the current electoral law, which improved the representation of the Lebanese societal components and regions.
- In October 2017, we called for a parliamentary investigation committee to audit the accounts of the Banque du Liban and were criticized for it then by the President of the Republic's team.
- On February 11, 2019, we submitted a draft law to make parliamentary committee sessions public and demanded the adoption of electronic voting.
- In 2019, we prepared a modern project for public tenders and submitted it as a draft law.
- We called for amending the law on the right of access to information to make it more obligatory for administrations to give information within the specified deadlines when requested.
- In 2021, we presented a draft law to suspend the provisions of the article on the voting of expatriates, so that their voting would be based on 128 MPs instead of 6 MPs.
- In 2021, we presented a draft law to shorten the mandate of Parliament with the aim of holding early parliamentary elections.
- On May 15, 2020 we asked the Minister of Justice to inform us about the fate of the notifications we submitted, related to files of corruption and squandering.
- On July 6, 2021 we submitted a draft law to prevent using BDL reserves.
- On August 26, 2021 we filed a petition to impeach the Prime Minister and a number of ministers and prosecuting them for neglecting their duties and causing tragedies onto the Lebanese people, especially related to fuel, medicine and electricity.
- On September 3, 2021 we submitted a law proposal to extend the period of the suspension of banking secrecy until the completion of the forensic audit.
- On October 17, 2020 we demanded the government to hand over to the forensic audit company all the documents required for the audit, under penalty of constitutional accountability.
- On December 21, 2020 the law on suspending banking secrecy was passed in favor of the criminal audit, a law we had submitted as a draft law on November 18, 2020.

The Executive Branch

The executive branch suffers from basic structural hurdles that reduce its effectiveness as the main service provider to the people and as the authority that shapes national policies, prerogatives preserved to it by the Constitution. Therefore, we will work on reforms that make the Council of Ministers a productive and effective institution.

Actions Taken

- In 2015, we proposed the e-government law, and in 2019 we developed an implementation plan when we took charge of the Ministry of Administrative Development. We also put it to practice by launching e-services at the Ministry of Public Health during our mandate.
- In 2017, we implemented a transparent and efficiency-based mechanism to select applicants for administrative positions at the Ministry of Information. That was the case when the Chair of the Board for Télé Liban was appointed. At the time, we proposed three names after conducting the necessary steps, but the President of the Republic took the initiative to stop these appointments.
- In 2019, during our mandate at the Ministry of Administrative Development, we updated 61 official websites and completed many automation projects for ministries and public administrations.
- In 2019, during our mandate at the Ministry of Administrative Development, we elaborated the national plan for the implementation of the law on the Right to Access Information.
- In 2020, we proposed a law on a making appointments based on competency in public administrations and institutions. It was approved, but the President of the Republic opposed and invalidated it.
- We completed the National Anti-Corruption Strategy during our mandate at the Ministry of Administrative Development.
- In 2019, during our mandate at the Ministry of Social Affairs, we canceled the contracts of 20 associations receiving funds from the Ministry due to breach of contract from their part.
- We sought to put the Bylaws of the Council of Ministers into practice, and to adopt clear functional tasks for the position of the Deputy Prime Minister.
- We worked on the decision that no minister should abstain from signing decrees that had been legally approved by the Council of Ministers, based on the Constitution.
We also sought to achieve the following steps:
- Approving the law of binding mechanisms for the issuance of decrees implementing the laws and executing them after being approved.
- Approving the law on the binding mechanism for category-A appointments that was previously submitted to Parliament.
- Starting the implementation of the e-government strategy.
- Reviewing the organizational structures of all ministries and their human resources.
- Adopting comprehensive rotation in all ministries.
- Organizing oversight bodies and empowering them with human capabilities to monitor the work of the departments independently and effectively.
- Submitting several files to Central Inspection and filing lawsuits before the judiciary by the Ministers of Health, Information, Social Affairs and Labor during our mandates at these ministries.
- Expanding the scope of the independent audit of hospital bills in the Ministry of Health and conducting tendering for drugs purchases for the first time in the history of the Republic through the tenders department.

The Judiciary

The judiciary has recently proven to be an independent authority and a spearhead in the process of reforming the State institutions as a whole. However, the judiciary is still weighed down by many issues. If empowered, the LFP will persevere to build on what it started in this area and ensure the complete independence of the judiciary in order to achieve full justice and enforce laws.

Actions Taken

- Reassessed the judicial, administrative and financial fixed-term staff.
- Ensuring the implementation of State Consultative Council decisions by public institutions and establishing a binding mechanism for it.
- Drafting a new law for the Military Court limiting its powers and preventing it from prosecuting civilians.
- Adopting new and flexible mechanisms for the judicial police, reviewing their tasks and placing them under the jurisdiction of the Public Prosecutor.
- Adopting the law on the independence of the judiciary after being reviewed by the Administration and Justice Committee and referred to the General Assembly on 18 November 2021.
- On September 23, 2021 a query was submitted to the government about the threats made to Judge Tarek Bitar regarding the protection of the investigation of the port explosion and the judge's personal security as well.

The Beirut Port Explosion

- **We called for an international fact-finding mission**
- **We strongly supported the Lebanese judiciary, defended its role in the investigations and its independent status**
- **We demanded to expedite the investigation to disclose the truth and requested fair compensation to the affected households and the families of the martyrs and victims.**
- **We submitted the Law on the Protection and Safeguarding of Real Estate Sales and the Reconstruction of Affected Areas, which was issued on October 1, 2020.**
- **On November 6, 2020 we submitted a draft law to form a committee that includes all the bodies and NGOs concerned with helping those affected by the blast.**
- **We called on the Ministry of Economy to find a solution with insurance companies to compensate affected people (medical, vehicle, etc.).**
- **We asked the Ministry of Social Affairs to cover the deductible for the injured.**
- **On January 26, 2021 we filed a legal notice on the Beirut Port crime at the general prosecutor's office asking for the investigations to include persons and officials close to the Syrian regime whose names were mentioned in intelligence and media reports.**

- On June 14, 2021, we submitted a bill on chemical waste management
- In the wake of the Beirut port blast, we founded “Ground-0,” a relief association that helped rebuild 709 houses, offered support to 5,300 people, provided free medicine for 200 people and provided voluntary medical consultations to nearly 2,500 injured or persons in need of medical attention



Accountability and the fight against corruption

In recent years, fighting corruption became a mainstream issue exploited by various political parties to attempt to regain public trust and increase in popularity. The LFP is different in that it has a track record of achievements in the fight against corruption that it intends to carry on with. The LFP aims to continue working towards the full implementation of the national anti-corruption strategy, and to strengthen and activate the role of regulatory bodies and implement laws related to accountability.

The first item in the anti-corruption plan is the selection of non-corrupt persons for public office. The responsibility falls first and foremost on the Lebanese by electing representatives who are non-corrupt, honest, transparent, and endowed with high moral values. In turn, these elected MPs have a duty to elect the new president of the republic in October, the new speaker of parliament, as well as nominate the new Prime Minister.

We will not give our vote of confidence to any government or minister associated with corruption. No matter how clear and strict the laws are, corrupt officials are able to manipulate them to serve their interests, as it happened in past years.

Actions Taken

- Activating the role of the National Anti-Corruption Commission and starting its work immediately.
- Implementing Law No. 189/2020 on declaring financial disclosure and illicit enrichment.
- Implementing Law No. 201/2020 on the recovery of funds that are proceeds from corruption and establishing a special fund to manage them.
- Implementation of the public procurement law in its entirety.
- Issuing all decrees necessary for concluding legal aid agreements with countries that hold funds resulting from acts of corruption committed in Lebanon, or by Lebanese parties.
- Implementing Laws 44/2015 and 55/2017 in full, in particular strengthening the role of the Special Investigation Commission, after reviewing its affiliation, composition and tasks. Also, empowering the role of the tax administration in the Ministry of Finance to monitor funds resulting from acts of corruption.
- Strengthening the role of oversight bodies and authorities, especially the Audit Bureau, the Central Inspection, the Supreme Disciplinary Authority, and the Civil Service Council, by increasing their staff and moving towards the independence of their procedures, provided that all of these bodies disclose and discuss their annual reports in public sessions before the House of Representatives.

The Public Administration

- Working to reduce the size of the public sector, abolish all previous government hiring and employment based on favoritism, revive the principle of accountability, and expedite the necessary procedures for its implementation.
- Canceling a large number of superfluous public institutions and funds.
- Assigning the tasks of these funds, councils and some public institutions to the relevant ministries or to the private sector.
- Reducing the size of the public sector and the number of diplomatic missions, and adopting e-government.
- Implementing the Public Private Partnership law.

- Partial or full privatizing, in partnership with the private sector, of institutions and assets that have commercial aspects in a timely manner for each sector, as the public sector is incurring losses resulting from mismanagement, incompetence and inefficiency.

Actions Taken

- We demanded that employees hired in violation of the law be fired.
- In 2019, in the context of discussing the general budget in the Council of Ministers, we demanded to reconsider the necessity of a number of councils and funds. During our mandate, the Ministry of Administrative Development presented a study to the government on this issue.
- Launching a job description program for all positions in public administrations.
- During our mandate at the Ministry of Social Affairs, contracts for about 600 contractors with the ministry were terminated, as their services were no longer needed, which greatly reduced the administrative cost.

The Lebanese Armed Forces

- Restoring the exclusivity of arms and weapons possession, as well as the security and military decision-making to the Lebanese Armed Forces.
- Implementing international resolutions that entail the deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces on all Lebanese territories.
- Deploying the Lebanese Armed Forces on all Lebanese borders, especially the eastern borders, to close the illegal crossings and smuggling.
- Providing the Lebanese Armed Forces with the equipment and weapons necessary to carry out all their tasks, by land, sea and air, through international and local support and funding.

Actions Taken

- We have always and insistently demanded that weapons be restricted to the hands of the Lebanese Armed Forces and the legal and regular forces.
- We have always called for the implementation of international resolutions that require the deployment of the Lebanese army on the entire Lebanese border.
- On January 6, 2021 we submitted a legal notice against Muhammad al-Labwani, who incited the displaced Syrians to bear arms and form armed military organizations in Lebanon.
- We submitted a draft law for disaster management and safety.

Internal Security and Public Safety

The increase in the crime rate in Lebanon is a very concerning indicator, and it may continue to increase if the government does not take immediate measures to curb the number of incidents, regardless of their cause, nature or perpetrator. Our vision in this field includes several priorities that require activating the role of the Internal Security Forces, General Security, and State Security in extending the rule of law and maintaining internal security and stability in order to create a suitable environment for economic growth and social stability.

- Approving the submitted draft law regarding disaster, crisis and emergency management and activating the national authority stipulated therein.
- Working to issue a modern law for security, safety and health at the workplace in the public and private sectors.

- Strengthening the role of the Internal Security services, with appropriate staffing and equipment.
- Limiting the reduction of penalties, especially in repeat violations or for perpetrators of crimes against official forces and institutions.
- Adopting the electronic monitoring bracelet and alternative methods of punishment in order to reduce overcrowding in prisons, which breeds more crime.
- Enforcing the collection of all penal fines from all regions.
- Supporting the Internal Security Forces with a political decision to remove encroachments on all public properties, especially electricity, railways, and land.
- Reducing beggary and establishing modern social care centers for minors at risk.
- Strengthening civil defense personnel, enhancing their powers, completing the installation of fire hydrants, and enhancing their readiness.
- Strengthening the capabilities of the municipal police in various municipalities and approving the necessary legal amendments for this purpose.
- Funding the deployment of surveillance cameras in all public places and roads, and making this measure mandatory.

Civil Society and Pressure Groups

In recent years, civil society in Lebanon has played an influential role in directing public opinion and helping people meet their needs in light of the failure of state agencies at various levels. However, consolidating the role of civil society and capitalizing on it requires some reforms that enhance and organize the effective role of CSOs, and secure their active involvement in the decisions of the regulatory bodies, the executive authority and in discussing legislation.

- Adopting a new law for associations and parties that contributes to enhancing intellectual, religious and cultural diversity in Lebanon.
- Adopting the Public Consultations Law and implementing it in all new legislation.
- Adopting a modern law for the media and social media platforms that sets a favorable climate for exercising freedom of expression and opinion responsibly.
- Establishing a “National Observatory for Volunteer Work” that focuses on unifying systems, work and monitoring procedures for all charitable and voluntary institutions, and to set incentive tax policies for charities in order to establish social responsibility and reduce their burden on the State.

Actions Taken

- During our mandate at the Ministry of Information, we presented a draft law aimed at restructuring the Ministry of Information to become a National Council for Communication and Information.
- We defended the role of the electricity sector’s regulatory authority, by rejecting and preventing amendments to the laws that undermined its role.
- We demanded the Council of Ministers to implement Law 431 to regulate the telecommunications sector and to reactivate its regulatory authority as a first step.

Trade Unions and Sector-Regulating Bodies

Over the years, the work of the unions turned into an arena for political competition and power struggles. As a result, a number of unions veered away from professional advocacy; Lebanon also lacks effective and independent regulatory bodies in managing and regulating all vital sectors. Therefore, we will work to correct the role of unions and bodies, enhance their professional and specialized nature, keep them away from political influence, and consolidate the principle of independent regulatory bodies in all sectors.

- Strengthening the role of professional and labor unions by keeping their work away from political influence, and empowering them to make independent decisions that are true to their mandate.
- Amending the law establishing the Economic and Social Council in a way that enhances its representative and advisory role in economic and social issues.
- Abolishing the Ministry of Information and replacing it with a National Council for Communication and Information.
- Keeping the work of sectors away from the direct effects of the political authority through the establishment of independent regulatory bodies for all sectors, and adopting a law in this regard.





On the Economy, Society and Sustainable Development

We aspire to build a free, competitive, and socially responsible economy that is able to compete regionally and internationally. An economy characterized by being a productive knowledge economy that stems from the Lebanese people's know-how and from the pivotal role of the private sector. We believe the State has an active role through the regulatory bodies responsible for implementing laws, controlling misconduct, and preserving consumer rights with the support and oversight of civil society.

We also seek to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations, at the national and local levels, aiming at ending poverty and hunger, securing health coverage and education, preserving the environment as well as natural resources in land and sea, addressing climate change, ensuring equality and justice, providing clean water, energy and sanitation, and the promotion of social justice.

However, none of these goals can be achieved unless Lebanon follows the path of recovery from its unprecedented economic, financial, monetary and social crises. The World Bank has ranked the Lebanese crisis among the three largest economic collapses in the world since 1850 in terms of the drop in GDP, blaming the ruling class for this collapse "that seized the State and its revenues, and ignored the implementation of basic reforms". The result: a devaluation of the national currency by more than 90%, while about 80% of citizens live below the poverty line or in extreme poverty; the unemployment rate has increased greatly, and depositors have been unable to recover their money from banks without incurring large losses.

The Lebanese Forces Party was the first to sense the imminent crisis. For seven months before the crisis occurred in October 2019, it demanded the approval and implementation of structural reforms. The party took the initiative to address the need for the International Monetary Fund to develop a recovery program that would have been less costly and more effective, if implemented, in anticipation of the great collapse we are witnessing today.

Moreover, the Lebanese Forces is the only political party that has weight in parliament without being linked to organic interests with the existing economic-political system. Therefore, the LFP is the most capable of finding serious and realistic solutions for the current crisis.

There are no magic solutions. In fact, the longer we wait, the higher the cost on all citizens. To be sure, the solution will not and cannot emanate from the ruling majority, since they were behind the problem in the first place and have lost people's trust.

Roadmap out of the Financial Crisis

Pulling out of the crisis requires the approval of a medium-term recovery plan that includes the points stated hereafter, while its implementation is surely supervised by a credible executive authority chosen by the Lebanese people.

Agreeing on a program with the International Monetary Fund

Agreeing on a program with the IMF is an obligatory path to resolve the crisis, because:

- It secures the necessary liquidity, especially to control the exchange rate.
- It is a condition set by foreign Eurobond holders to negotiate the restructuring of these bonds.
- It facilitates securing additional funding from other countries and organizations.
- The IMF commits to allocating a portion of the funding to strengthen the social safety net.
- No one has proposed any serious alternative to this program.

It is clear that if a program had been concluded with the IMF a year and a half ago, the sacrifices would have been less today, as the currency has now collapsed by 90% and inflation exceeded 300% annually.

Actions Taken

- In March 2019, we held a workshop on financial and tax reforms, which resulted in recommendations that we presented to the Council of Ministers, including resorting to the IMF if basic reforms are approved and implemented;
- In 2020 and 2021, we submitted several legal notices to the judiciary regarding the control of smuggling operations through the legal and illegal border crossings;
- In 2019, we submitted a proposal to set up a scanner and amend the customs data procedure from the source to stop the waste and embezzlement in customs collection;
- We rejected the successive non-austerity and non-reform oriented budgets.
- In 2021, we introduced an expedited bill to protect the money that Lebanon received from the IMF through the Special Drawing Right (SDR) distribution.
- In our ministerial work, we adhered to the administration of tenders in all public contracts.
- On April 26, 2021 we filed an appeal against the law regarding giving Electricité du Liban an advance from the treasury because its funding comes from the BDL reserves of depositors' money.
- On February 1, 2021 we submitted a proposal to support the families in need using the electronic financial card.

Restructuring the Banking Sector and Protecting Small Depositors

- The economy will not rise again unless the banking sector is restored. This operation requires the establishment of a comprehensive legal framework to restructure the sector (Global Resolution Framework) and ensure a fair distribution of losses while respecting the legal hierarchy, starting with shareholder's funds, then subordinated funds and debts. All, while working to protect the funds of small depositors as much as possible.

- Completely abolishing the banking secrecy law, which has lost its role of being an attractive incentive for investments in the current circumstances, and has now become a mere cover for tax evasion and illicit enrichment.
- The adoption of a fair “Capital Control” law integrated with other procedures to preserve the rights of depositors.
- The swift completion of the forensic audit, enforcing accountability and the recovery of funds acquired illegally or through influence, be it in Lebanon or through previous transfers to offshore accounts.
- Maintaining the BDL mandatory reserves without compromising it through irrational policies to support subsidies and stabilize the exchange rate.
- Freeing the currency exchange rate through a reliable plan with clear restrictions for BDL interventions, a step that is part of the comprehensive reform plan.

Reforming Public Finance

- Implementing the immediate reforms program of the public sector to stop the hemorrhage of the treasury.
- Controlling customs and borders, and closing illegal crossings to prevent smuggling, thus preserving customs collection and protecting legal products on the market.
- Reforming basic sectors such as electricity, telecommunications and other services.
- Reconsidering the size of the public sector according to needs and effectiveness, and reorganizing criteria of promotions and rewards according to job performance.
- Enforcing accountability and selecting individuals in all departments on a merit-basis.
- Establishing a new tax system based on social equality and fair distribution of wealth.
- Cancelling all employment contracts that violate the law, especially those concluded after 2017.
- Abolishing councils and special funds, starting with the Syrian-Lebanese Higher Council.
- Confiscating seaside properties in violation of the law, and those still without status adjustment according to Law 64/2017.
- Improving tax collection based on the suspension of banking secrecy.
- Reforming pensions and retirement.

Managing State Assets

State assets are generally managed in a non-transparent and inefficient manner, stained by corruption and clientelism. To ensure reforms, the following steps must be followed:

- Establishing one or more independent institutions to manage state assets to increase incomes, advance the economy, and create job opportunities.
- Developing a program to involve the private sector for assets of a commercial nature, or put them on the stock market after improving their performance, or use assets and reserves as insurance for investments in the development of infrastructure and services to create job opportunities and activate the economic cycle.
- Securing a transparent and independent management from international, expatriate and local expertise, and teaming up with international institutions using assets to secure funding for basic infrastructure rehabilitation.

Economic Sectors and Infrastructure

Electricity

The electricity sector constitutes one of the biggest sources of waste and losses. It is one of the biggest causes of the accumulation of public debt over the years and the recent collapse of the economy. Therefore, one of our priorities is to rebuild the electricity sector and take advantage of the opportunity to modernize it by applying the best administrative and technical approaches. Thus, providing clean energy at acceptable prices in line with the United Nations goals for sustainable development.

- Implementing of Law 462/2002 without any amendments.
- Appointing a completely new administrative board for Electricité du Liban.
- Appointing a regulatory body as stipulated by the law in a transparent and fair manner that benefits from the high expertise of its members.
- Expediting the construction of the Al-Zahrani and Deir Ammar plants with a capacity of 1500 megawatts, a feeding station, and a third plant if necessary. The cost of the two plants plus the station does not exceed two billion dollars, which at least half of it is provided by the World Bank.
- Restructuring the management of the Electricité du Liban, according to the provisions of the law.
- Launching the tender for permanent plants in a transparent and competitive manner, while removing infringements and repairing networks, setting up a new billing system, and installing smart meters.
- Adopting of decentralized production solutions to secure energy in the short term under the supervision of the regulatory authority.
- Increasing the amount of production through alternative energy and gas, and applying a distributed production system that allows the production of alternative energy by individuals and institutions, thus supplying the grid with the surplus for private consumption.
- Reducing technical and non-technical losses and implementing necessary measures that were previously agreed upon, but never implemented.

Actions Taken

- On March 28, 2018 we held a workshop on the electricity sector, which resulted in recommendations that were adopted in the electricity plan approved by the government.
- We insisted on adhering to established legal procedures for public tenders regarding the temporary energy, thus preventing deals outside this framework.
- In 2020, we submitted legal notices to the judiciary against all successive energy ministers, due to violations related to waste and corruption, and demanded that all perpetrators of the fraudulent fuel file be held accountable, starting from the top of the pyramid.
- In November 2020, we submitted a draft law aiming to extend the operating contract of the Zahle Electricity Company, and it was approved on December 21, 2021.

Oil and Natural Gas

The exploration of oil and natural gas is one of the primary ways to salvage the collapsing Lebanese economy. It is obvious that its management should be effective and transparent to preserve its value for future generations. In addition to the law that we presented on enhancing transparency in the oil sector, which was approved by the General Assembly, we aspire to build a solid legislative and administrative framework for a good management of this sector and to reap long-term benefits.

- Completing legislation of various forms of oil management, especially the sovereign fund.
- Finalizing procedures, arbitration and delineation of the maritime borders.
- Developing structures for roads, pipelines, harbors, airports and helipads.
- Using part of the discovered natural gas domestically at a later stage, especially to generate electricity.

Actions Taken

- Holding the Oil and Gas Sector Conference in 2016, which resulted in recommendations, including the transparency draft law.
- Passing of our bill to Support Transparency in the Petroleum Sector into law in 2018.

Industry

Since the country's independence, the industrial sector has been suffering from local and regional fluctuations, some beneficial and others harmful. The economic isolation that Lebanon suffers from, in conjunction with the deterioration of the internal economic situation, has led to increased pressure on this sector. We, therefore, aim for Lebanon to participate in the Fourth Industrial Revolution through a quantum leap towards smart and technological industries of high added value, especially in the fields of mathematics, computer programming and engineering.

- Developing and implementing a comprehensive vision for the industry in Lebanon.
- Identifying advanced and creative industries with high added value that characterize Lebanon's uniqueness, and through which Lebanese companies can compete on the global or regional markets, after setting tax and investment incentives for them.
- Focusing on industries requiring a lesser amount of imported raw materials.
- Orienting the industrial sector by limiting licenses and giving tax and financial incentives.
- Determining differentiating factors for each region, stimulating specific industries, and creating specialized industrial zones.
- Stimulating exports and opening large markets by setting high standards for quality in addition to financial incentives.
- Developing the appropriate workforce linking industry needs to technical educational curricula.

Actions Taken

- On November 16, 2020, we submitted a proposal to amend the Value Added Tax Law to add goods to the list of funds and items exempted from tax, thus to include industrial machinery, materials for packing and canning crops, agricultural industries and food products, raw materials that are not produced locally and used in the manufacture of food products, and raw materials used in the manufacture of products that are not originally subject to value-added tax, such as medicines.

Food Security and Agriculture

Agriculture presently constitutes only a small percentage of the GDP, although it is still the main source of livelihood for about 25% of the population. This disparity is due to the large negligence by the officials, and the absence of supporting policies, as well as the reduced budget allocated to the Ministry of Agriculture. We believe that the solution is to develop the agricultural sector and enable it to strengthen food security, create suitable job opportunities, satisfy the local market with the basic crops, and open export markets to Arab countries and Europe by improving quality and fulfilling the required conditions.



- Developing agricultural production and specifying areas for certain crops according to preferential factors and the industries linked to them.
- Reviewing agricultural agreements that are unfair or harmful to Lebanese farmers, enforcing those that favor them.
- Finding a mechanism that gives farmers healthcare insurance.
- Developing the work of the Directorate of Cooperatives, which is one of the pillar for the sector development.
- Updating laws regulating the work of cooperatives, specialized trade unions, and chambers of agriculture.
- Developing a system of easy and customized loans for farmers and small businesses.
- Strengthening control over local production, imports and exports to meet international standards, and activating training and control over the use of agricultural pesticides.
- Securing foreign exchange markets through commercial attachés, or creating agricultural attachés within Lebanese embassies, especially in importing countries.

- Activating agricultural research and seeds production.
- Putting the cannabis legalization plan into practice as soon as possible and ensuring the highest standards of transparency in its application, according to the law we submitted and got approved.

Actions Taken

We held conferences to develop practical solutions for several agricultural sectors:

- On July 12, 2021 we organized the Re-Export of Hope conference aimed at facilitating the export of Lebanese agricultural products to the Arab Gulf countries and negotiating with the concerned countries to facilitate exports.
- On July 5, 2019 we organized the “Strong Industry for a Strong Republic” conference.

Telecommunications

The telecommunications sector is one of the most important pillars of economic growth, but it has reached a situation similar to that of the electricity sector at early stages of accumulating losses. We, therefore, aim to reform the telecommunications sector and not use it as a source of taxes, rather as a primary means of building the economy, improving public finances, and developing a modern digital society, in a sound competitive and investment environment.

- Implementing of Law 431/2002 (Regulating the Telecommunications Sector) starting with the establishment of Liban Telecom
- Appointing the regulatory body board of directors and reactivating it.
- Rehabilitating and regulating the cellular sector.
- Reducing the operating costs of networks and integrating non-electronic infrastructures.
- Restructuring the tariff according to consumption and segments of society.
- Developing digital services.
- In the medium term, implementing Law 393/2002 (partial or full privatization of the cellular sector).
- Encouraging international private investments in the sector that reduce the cost on the State and increase the quality of services at a cost acceptable to the citizen under the supervision of the regulatory authority.

Actions Taken

- On July 15, 2019 we held a workshop to reform the telecommunications sector, which resulted in recommendations that were useful in discussing the cellular sector file in government.
- We have repeatedly warned about the way the telecommunications sector is managed, thus avoiding the same fate of the energy sector. We have rejected the government’s hybrid approaches and the use of the sector as taxes on citizens.

Seaports and Airports

Ports and airports are the main gateways for the economy and commercial activity. Over the past decades, both their security and administration system has deteriorated as a result of the war, the Syrian occupation, the hegemony of militias (Hezbollah), and corruption. A priority must be given to reform the administration of the ports while the security aspect is to be integrated within the same plan of controlling the state borders and crossings. These vital facilities must be transformed into gates open to sound commercial movement and into a source of great income that will eventually contribute to the country's economic recovery.

- Implementing a comprehensive policy that links port infrastructure to internal and transit roads, and determines their aspects of use and their development policy accordingly.
- Establishing an independent authority to regulate maritime transport, preserve beaches and territorial waters, implement public policies, and ensure that investments flow within the framework of these policies.
- Adopting the approach of concession or private management of all ports, as was the case at the port of Beirut in the past, and as it is in more than 50% of international ports.
- Allowing a twenty-year concession period to rehabilitate and manage the port of Beirut, that is to be paid in advance to the Lebanese Treasury, and sharing unexpected excessive gains.
- Improving the Civil Aviation Administration Authority.
- Completing the legal and logistical procedures to open and use the President Rene Moawad Airport in Klayaat, Akkar for civil aviation.
- Developing the Jounieh Port to be a major tourist port.

Actions Taken

- In May 2019, we presented a plan to reform the management of the Port of Beirut to the Council of Ministers during sessions discussing reforms.
- In 2021, MP Ziad Al-Hawat developed a public transportation project in the Byblos district.
- In 2017 and 2018, Deputy Prime Minister Ghassan Hasbani chaired the National Committee for Basic Projects in Regions, that established the requirements for complete and developed infrastructure in all Governorates (Mohafazat) and constituted an essential part of the investment plan presented at the CEDRE Conference.
- In 2018 and 2019, Deputy Prime Minister Ghassan Hasbani chaired the National Committee for Sustainable Development, that prepared the first report determining the achievement level of its goals in Lebanon, and which was submitted to the High-level Political Forum at the United Nations.
- In 2019, Deputy Prime Minister Ghassan Hasbani set strategy implementation objectives.

Public Transport and Roads

Public transport in Lebanon is almost non-existent, and with the change in the economic situation and the Lebanese lifestyle, we aim in the short and medium terms to implement a comprehensive national plan for public transport, connecting regions with each other, reducing transportation cost for citizens and reducing environmental pollution.

- Establishing a regulatory body for setting standards and issuing licenses for national networks, and supervising licensing standards issued by local authorities for private companies or for those in partnership with the public sector.
- Modernizing the train networks in stages by restoring existing lines, removal of encroachments and infringements, and the rehabilitation of the railways. The train services will benefit passengers and the transport of goods alike. All this will be in partnership with the private sector.
- Establishing public transport networks in all districts and main roads connecting the mountains to the coast and the Beqaa regions with the main Beqaa stations in Zahle, Rayak, Baalbek and secondary stations.
- Establishing public transport bus networks in Beirut and other cities with franchises issued by the city's municipality to ensure proper management.
- Establishing a Rapid Transport Bus network (in Beirut) that extends to the Beirut greater area.
- Establishing car parking lots near major stations to ensure connections between public and private transport in the event public transport is unavailable in some areas.
- Launching a program to rehabilitate the main roads in parallel with the comprehensive public transport plan, the e-government and decentralization, to relieve roads congestion.

Society and the Environment

Adequate Work

Implementing a general policy to improve Human Resources and potential, creating job opportunities, stimulating small and medium-sized enterprises to secure economic growth, and aiming at helping Lebanese people getting out of poverty, thus achieving the first goal of sustainable development, reducing the income gap, and securing equal opportunities.

- Fixing the minimum wage as a way of achieving social justice.
- Taking into account the incentives for productivity and the cost of living in the regions.
- Separating public from private sector salary policies.
- Establishing an incentive policy for investments and attracting international companies to Lebanon.
- Establishing a social safety net.
- Rehabilitating Human Resources to facilitate finding jobs and new opportunities.
- Developing vocational training to bridge the gap between education and labor market requirements and developing the workforce as needed.
- Setting stimulating policies for small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Amending the Companies Law to facilitate their establishment and dissolution.
- Participation of the Lebanese diaspora in supporting investment projects and helping them to open foreign markets.
- Developing digital infrastructure to open global markets for digital productivity in Lebanon.

Actions Taken

- In 2019, during our mandate at the Ministry of Labor, we launched and implemented a plan to organize foreign labor in Lebanon.
- On October 6, 2021 we proposed a law to establish an economic zone in the Metn region with the aim of attracting investments and creating job opportunities in the region.

Women

Lebanese women have been in high positions in the public and private sectors. This is a testimony of their ability and perseverance, yet they still suffer from the reality of discrimination against them. Despite the fact that we are pioneers in presenting draft laws that eliminate discrimination, we intend to continue our fight for women, through steps that secure equal opportunities and interaction between genders enabling women to engage more in building an effective society and economy.

- Protecting women against domestic violence and applying the special law issued in this regard.
- Adopting the law we had presented, aiming at determining the legal age of marriage, and preventing the marriage of minors.
- Amending the Labor Law in terms of articles that distinguish women's work from men's work, aiming at achieving full equality.
- Working to remove all reservations made by the Lebanese government towards the full implementation of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- Repealing all legal texts in the Penal Code that discriminate against women, for example, the law related to marital rape.

Actions Taken

- On May 7, 2014 the Law that we had proposed on the Protection of Women and the Protection of all family Members from Domestic Violence was published in the official gazette.
- In 2019, during our mandate at the Ministry of Labor, we established a committee to amend the Labor Law to remove unfair articles against women.
- In 2021, we presented a bill to determine the legal age for marriage and to prevent the marriage of underage girls.

Health, Social Security and Old Age Security

The health and social security sector has almost completely collapsed, with the loss of healthcare coverage for the majority of patients and the deterioration of the healthcare and pharmaceutical situation. Moreover, social security has become in danger after the collapse of the Lebanese Lira and the use of a portion of the Social Security funds as advances to the Treasury at certain stages. We will, therefore, work to secure a health and social safety net that provides coverage for all Lebanese citizens of all age groups in a comprehensive manner that maintains health and social security.

- Restructuring social security, unifying all guarantors and insurers, and digitalizing the department.
- Approving the Old Age Security Law and its financing from multiple sources, including tax and privatization revenues, and contributions from the private sector.
- Implementing comprehensive health coverage and approving the law regulating it with financing mechanisms.
- Organizing the health sector by strengthening primary health care, and allocating treatment centers in the region
- Organizing the hospitalization sector and applying a plan for emergency services.

- Organizing the drug sector and activating the National Drug Authority and the Central Laboratory, and managing drug procurement for official institutions in a centralized and transparent manner.
- Issuing all applicable legislation and decrees related to the regulation of medical professions.
- Tracking the import, manufacture, distribution and consumption of medicines via barcode technology and electronic drug files.
- Maintaining a pivotal role for the pharmacist to reduce the drug bill and ensure the safety of consumption.
- Developing the local drug industry.

Actions Taken

- During our mandate at the Ministry of Administrative Development, we prepared the National Strategy for Digital Transformation and the associated implementation plan.
- In 2019, during our mandate at the ministry of social affairs, we worked on a soft loan from the World bank amounting to 600 million dollars to cover the social safety net to remedy the social crisis. It was later approved in 2020.
- During our mandate at the Ministry of Public Health, a comprehensive plan for reforming the health sector was developed and its implementation was underway.
- In 2018, a financing of \$150 million was obtained from the World Bank to develop primary and emergency healthcare in public hospitals, which had a life-saving impact during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We have developed a complete plan to amend the draft law on universal health coverage (health card) and sought its approval in parliamentary committees in preparation for its approval by the General Assembly.
- During our mandate at the Ministry of Public Health, the drug pricing mechanism was modified, as a result, drug prices fell by an average of 48%.
- On February 3, 2021 we presented an integrated plan for immunization against COVID-19.
- In 2021, we put forward a plan to rationalize drug subsidies.
- We submitted a draft law to organize the Drug Authority, which was merged with other projects and proposals. The law of the National Drug Agency was ultimately approved on November 10, 2021.
- We took a stand in parliament and in the media against the import of Iranian medicine that did not meet the FDA and European standards, nor the MoH registration requirements.

Education

The Lebanese education sector used to rank highly ranked on the global level. However, in recent years it suffered enormously from the repercussions of the Syrian refugee crisis and the financial and economic crisis. Today, the sector suffers from lack of funding, especially at private schools, and the emigration of teachers and staff. We aspire to re-develop this sector and to provide adequate and advanced quality education with equal opportunities for all, regardless of financial capabilities.

- Providing comprehensive educational coverage and compulsory education up to high school grades.
- Reviewing and updating the educational curriculum that is relatively outdated. Introducing technology as a learning tool and a basic discipline in the curriculum as well.



- Adopting modern teaching methods such as: Flipped classroom, live problem-solving, with emphasis on developing student skills, especially their critical thinking and analysis skills.
- The Lebanese University: we will seek to open an independent public university in each governorate (we could start with the branches of the Lebanese University), as this model is adopted in many countries (Syria and Iran, for example).
- Establishing a special institution to monitor and control the educational process and support it through educational inspection by:
 - Activating the centers for training, guidance and educational research.
 - Cancelling the Brevet official exam (Certificate-Grade 9).
 - Reorganizing the structures of the Ministry of Education, the public schools and institutes, the Lebanese University, and revisiting job and task descriptions, thus ensuring continuing education for staff and teachers.

Human Rights

One cannot talk about democracy without preserving human rights, since the preamble of the Lebanese Constitution guarantees all rights in accordance with the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, all international reports still rank Lebanon as one of the countries with the least respect for human rights. We are, therefore, committed to implement international human rights standards, to build and develop institutions that preserve them in order to reach the sustainable development goals of the United Nations addressing the main pillars of these rights.

- Implementing the provisions of the Right to Information Law, amended by all state agencies.
- Activating the role of the National Commission for Human Rights, including the Committee for the Prevention of Torture, enabling it to enforce its mission in accordance with international best standards.
- Implementing Law No. 191/2020 on guarantees given to pre-trial detainees, and punishing those who don't abide by it.

- Reviewing the prison system, and building additional model jails to reduce overcrowding.
- Implementing the law on the forcibly disappeared after addressing problems related to the committee in charge as stipulated in the law.
- Approving the amendments to Law No. 65/2017 related to fighting torture in order to prevent and eliminate this practice.

Youth

Lebanese youth suffer from basic problems that forced most of them to emigrate, and those who remain in Lebanon run the risk of either unemployment or delinquency. Field studies indicate that the Lebanese youth are the most willing to emigrate among all their peers in the region. In addition to an effective political solution, we will enhance the role of the youth in rebuilding the Lebanese economy and society relying on modern creative resources, and creating the appropriate environment to stop the brain drain.

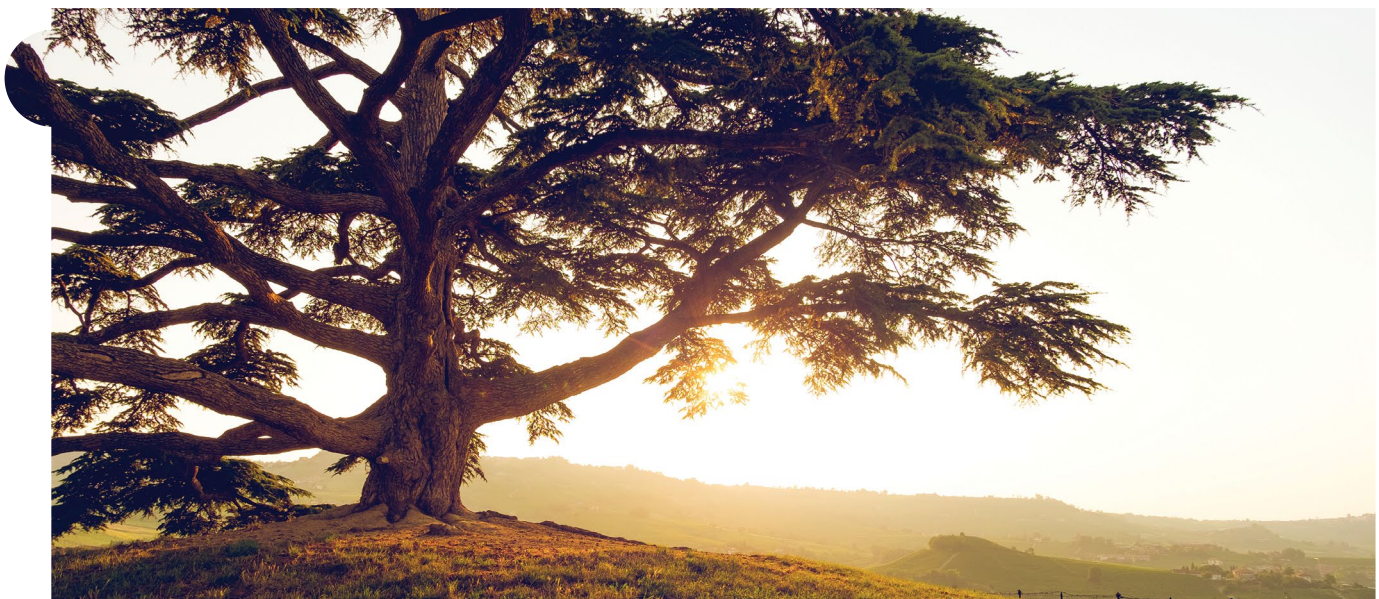


- Reconsidering the basic educational curricula while maximizing subjects related to sports, civic education and law.
- Encouraging investment in entrepreneurial and innovative businesses, thus helping young people to open horizons for cooperation with foreign countries to market their creative products and innovations.
- Respecting the intellectual choices of young people and encouraging them to engage in public work.
- Supporting sports and athletic clubs by all available means.

- Encouraging local authorities to devote part of their budgets to youth care and wellbeing.
- Connecting university options of young people with the labor market and establishing a special unemployment benefits fund.
- Financing research and development centers (R&D) and promoting initiatives and innovative small and medium enterprises created by Lebanese youth.

Environment and Natural Resources

Over the years, there has been an extensive destruction of forest and marine resources, and of biodiversity in Lebanon, in spite of the country's competitive natural advantages on the global level. We, therefore, aim to preserve the environment that characterizes Lebanon, its biodiversity, beaches and marine life within the framework of the United Nations sustainable development goals.



- Involving the private sector in providing modern, advanced, and clean services to all sectors dealing with the environment.
- Supporting environmental sustainability by protecting air, marine, aquatic and terrestrial environments, combating foul odors, protecting the coast from pollution, improving the management and preservation of natural resources and biodiversity, and combating desertification.
- Activating environmental pollution control mechanisms, supporting and facilitating the establishment of specialized units of the environmental police to monitor compliance.
- Direct application of rapid and sustainable solutions to address the issue of solid waste, starting with the decentralization of the sorting and treatment processes.
- Regulating quarries and crushers, specifying their locations and legal investment frameworks, and establishing a regulatory authority for them.

Actions Taken

- On June 11, 2019 we held a conference for quarries and crushers in Lebanon, and many of its recommendations were later included in the plan of the Ministry of Environment in this regard.

Clean Water and Rationalization of Consumption

With the increasing need for water, Lebanon still wastes the largest percentage of precipitation due to mismanagement. We, therefore, seek to achieve the sustainable development goals related to responsible consumption and production, securing clean water and sanitation through sound management of water resources and the rationalization of water use and waste.

- Seeking to finish studies projects, and implementation of mountain lakes, and work to secure necessary funding.
- Reconsidering the plan for dams, setting priorities for what is necessary and vital, and adopting sound environmental, engineering and hydrological standards in studies and implementation.
- Directing investments towards resorting to sound environmental and scientific solutions to secure sustainable sources of water, developing infrastructure to raise the efficiency of distribution networks, installing smart meters and an advanced distribution network.
- Seeking to implement projects of sewage networks and stations on all Lebanese territories, connecting them to each other, and finding scientific solutions for sludge and recycled water resulting from the refining process.
- Declaring all public communal lands such as mountains, seas and rivers as natural reserves, forbidding any licenses for wells, and adopting strict environmental conditions necessary for the implementation of drilling wells in the outer perimeter of these areas.
- Working on developing the sector's management units and transforming the state water departments into public companies to facilitate the inclusion of the private sector capital and expertise.
- Encouraging the development of the general master plan for water, plans for the basins and their classification system.

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we can.**



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