



Resolution on Lebanon and the need for reform, under international scrutiny

The terrible events caused by the explosion on August 4 of a 2,750-tonne ammonium nitrate depot shook the port area of Beirut and nearby residential areas, leaving at least 150 dead, more than 6,000 injured and some 300,000 homeless. Among the dead was the Secretary General of KATAËB, an IDC-CDI member party. One third of the city's population is currently affected by the explosion.

The devastating explosion in Beirut comes at the worst possible time. The country was already in the throes of a deep political and economic crisis - although in 2008 there was brief prosperity as money poured into the country via both loan guarantees from France and Saudi Arabia and a remittance scheme concerning Lebanese living abroad - and in 2011 prosperity declined, coupled with the war in Syria (which affected tourism and export routes), and the recent resignation of Prime Minister Mustapha Adib. After the terrible explosion, the people of Beirut took to the streets to protest with more vengeance than ever, wondering who will pay for the damage caused to the population.

However, thanks to the help that the international community is offering it, Lebanon could now have a good opportunity to change its political structures, which are ultimately the cause of this instability and social discontent in the country. In this respect,

On behalf of the **IDC-CDI**, we wish to convey our deepest condolences to all the relatives and friends of our colleague Nazar Najarian, Secretary General of KATAËB, and our regret at his passing in these unjust and painful events that engulfed the city of Beirut.

The **IDC-CDI** supports the creation of an international coalition for urgent aid and thus supports the donor conference, promoted by France and backed by the UN, and which will mobilize more than 250 million euros to assist the recovery in Beirut through "substantial resources" that will be delivered directly to the Lebanese population with the utmost efficiency and transparency.

The **IDC-CDI** applauds the European Commission's efforts to allocate 30 million euros in aid to Lebanon, which will be added to the 33 million euros it announced on 6 August. This humanitarian aid is financed through United Nations agencies, NGOs and international organisations subject to strict controls.

The **IDC-CDI** calls on nations to respect the sovereignty of Lebanon and to refrain from any internal interference that could undermine the spirit of solidarity and humanitarian aid, with the exception of the limits set out in the rules of international law and humanitarian law.



The **IDC-CDI** encourages and supports the call of the Lebanese people, through the current protests, for more inclusive, just reforms that will guarantee the prosperity and stability of the weakened nation, ensuring peace, through the necessary eradication of terrorism.

The **IDC-CDI** supports the international call for Lebanon to put an impartial and effective executive in power. In particular, we believe it is necessary that Lebanon undertake major structural reforms, essentially in the sector of public procurement (an additional means of financing terrorism), the fight against corruption and smuggling, the financial and banking system, basic supplies for the population, and the strengthening of its judiciary.

The **IDC-CDI** does not believe Lebanon can be "reborn" without the total eradication of the Hezbollah terrorist organisation.

Executive Committee Meeting videoconference 01/10/2020.