



Lebanon

*Resolution tabled by the KATAEB Party of Lebanon
at the IDU Executive Meeting, December 09th, 2022 in Washington D.C.*

For the past 4 years, Lebanon has been struggling from horrendous multiple layer crises which destabilized its system and drowned the country into economic and financial chaos, as well as a blocked political system. The country once called “the Switzerland of the Middle East” is now being dragged to become a proxy state for Iranian Influence in the region.

The deterioration of the situation in Lebanon is caused by two major factors - the Hezbollah militia operating as a political player and a military organization in Lebanon and the MENA region, implementing Iranian agenda in the region, and a ruling mafia benefitting from the protection of the militia to escape accountability and steal the country’s resources in an organized way.

Lebanese people took the streets in 2019 to protest the economic and financial crises but their peaceful protests were confronted by violent street clashes from Hezbollah and its allies. Also, the 2022 parliamentary elections didn’t bring the expected outcomes, in particular in Hezbollah’s strongholds, due to the organization’s use of intimidation and threats against its constituents.

A second factor is that Lebanon entered a presidential vacuum on October 31 and that there is no functioning Council of Ministers, leaving the country without an active executive. This vacuum is also caused mainly by Hezbollah and its allies. The Lebanese parliament is actively prevented from electing a new president of the republic, who in turn can sign off on the formation of a new cabinet.

Therefore, the International Democratic Union calls upon its member parties and their respective governments, as well as the international community:

- condemn the actions of Hezbollah that are blocking the work of the state institutions in Lebanon;
- implement and increase the sanctions on Hezbollah and its allies for their role in the security destabilization of Lebanon and the region, also impose new sanctions on corrupt politicians in Lebanon under the jurisdiction of the Global Magnetsky Act;
- form a united approach on solving the crisis in Lebanon, with the help of the international community, starting with the elections of a new President and the formation of a new cabinet, as well as the full implementation of UNSC Resolutions 1559, 1680, and 1701;
- continue the lifeline financial and economic support to the Lebanese people who are suffering from multiple crises, especially with the presence of nearly 2 millions Syrian and Palestinian refugees who are adding to the burden of the Lebanese people, via the Civil Society Organizations and trusted partners and local authorities.