

18 January 2021

*Background documentation:*

[A/HRC/WG.6/37/LBN/1](#) National report submitted by the Lebanese Republic.

*Other reports and information on the website of OHCHR:*

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/LBIndex.aspx>

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***H.E. Mr. Salim Baddoura, Ambassador of Lebanon to the UNOG – Presentation of the national report:***

The report was prepared by the National Commission for Human Rights. Broad consultations were held between various ministries, national stakeholders and human rights actors in Lebanon.

Lebanon is **unique as a country**, at the crossroads between West and East, with different cultures and religions. Human rights are a tool to ensure peace and sustainable development in Lebanon.

It is very important to understand the **challenges faced by Lebanon today**. The **economic and financial situation** was already disastrous. The **Beirut port explosion** added a new dimension to these challenges. It will have long term consequences, further exacerbated by the **Covid-19 pandemic**. These challenges have come on top of other challenges such as **violation of territorial integrity by Israel** and hosting thousands of **refugees from Palestine and Syria** in Lebanon.

Thereby, one must take into account these existing challenges in Lebanon while reviewing the human rights situation of the country.

### **Recommendations from States**

In total, **105 States took the floor** to issue recommendations to Lebanon.

During their statements, most of the States acknowledged the **difficult situation Lebanon was facing** today and extended their condolences for the Beirut Port explosion. They commended Lebanon for hosting a high **number of Syrian and Palestinian refugees**. States also appreciated the development of a **national human rights institution** in Lebanon.

The following issues received the most recommendations:

❖ **Strengthen gender equality and women's rights, including allowing women to pass on their nationality to their children and empowerment of women:**

Angola, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Nepal, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Sweden, United Arab Emirates.

❖ **Maintain the moratorium on execution and consider abolishing the death penalty:** Argentina, Australia, Burkina Faso, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Fiji, France, Georgia, Holy See, Honduras, Iceland, Italy, Mozambique, New Zealand, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Ukraine, Uruguay.

❖ **Protect children's rights, including combatting recruitment of children in armed violence, prevent child labour and prohibit child marriage:**

Angola, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Holy See, Honduras, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Myanmar, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Spain, Palestine, Timor-Leste.



- ❖ **Protect the rights of domestic and migrant workers and abolish the Kafala system:**  
Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Canada, Finland, Honduras, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, United Kingdom.
- ❖ **Strengthen efforts to prevent torture, including by implementing anti-torture laws in compliance with the Convention Against Torture:**  
Australia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Ireland, Maldives, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Republic of Korea, Romania, Switzerland, United States of America.
- ❖ **Protect freedom of expression and freedom of assembly for journalists and bloggers, and prevent violence against journalists and human rights defenders during peaceful protests:**  
Australia, Austria, Canada, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Ukraine, United States of America.
- ❖ **Protect the rights of the (Syrian and Palestinian) refugees in Lebanon:**  
France, Germany, Holy See, Kuwait, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Sudan, Togo, Turkey.
- ❖ **Fight all forms of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity:**  
Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Germany, Latvia, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden.
- ❖ **Combat all forms of domestic violence, including marital rape:**  
Australia, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Fiji, India, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Romania, Turkey,
- ❖ **Protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including children and refugees:**  
Argentina, Azerbaijan, Greece, India, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, Turkey, Ukraine.
- ❖ **Strengthen independence of the judiciary and bar military courts:**  
France, Ireland, Latvia, Norway, Palestine, Switzerland, United States of America.
- ❖ **Combat institutional and official corruption:**  
Bahrain, Egypt, Holy See, Indonesia, Nigeria, Oman, United States of America.
- ❖ **Decriminalize same sex relations:**  
Chile, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Spain.
- ❖ **Combat trafficking in human beings:**  
Belarus, Cambodia, Morocco, Nigeria, Paraguay.
- ❖ **Ratify human rights mechanisms and international conventions, including:** Convention on Enforced Disappearances, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Optional Protocol for CEDAW, Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child on involvement of children in armed conflict, Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers, Optional Protocol 1 and 2 of the ICCPR.