

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 62nd SESSION

UPR Outcome of Lebanon

30 June 2026

H.E. Ms. Caroline Ziadeh, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Lebanon, presented the progress already achieved, outlined the reforms that had been initiated and listened carefully to the recommendations and observations advanced by Member States. The Universal Periodic Review is one of the Human Rights Council's most valuable mechanisms for international cooperation in the field of human rights. It is founded on dialogue, mutual respect, peer review and our shared commitment to strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights for all.

Regrettably, the context of today has changed profoundly. She affirmed that Lebanon has been drawn into a war it did not choose. It has faced renewed hostilities and indiscriminate and disproportionate Israeli attacks on its territory amid an increasingly volatile regional environment. These attacks have resulted in significant civilian casualties, the widespread destruction of homes and critical civilian infrastructure, and repeated strikes affecting journalists, healthcare workers, first responders, and United Nations peacekeepers. They have also caused large-scale internal displacement and severely disrupted essential services, including education and healthcare. These attacks have been accompanied by Israeli military incursions into and occupation of Lebanese territory, in violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Lebanon called upon the international community to uphold its responsibilities under international law, to ensure respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and to take meaningful action to bring an end to these violations and alleviate the suffering of the civilian population.

Lebanon remaining firmly committed to fully advancing its national reform agenda possible, she highlighted several important developments in support to this.

The Country has accepted all recommendations relating to the abolition of the death penalty and approved a draft law abolishing the death penalty; it deposited its instrument of ratification of the Ottawa Convention, reaffirming its commitment to humanitarian disarmament, the protection of civilians and the promotion of human rights; and launched national action plan and legal guide aimed to promote women's rights.

Regarding the recommendations concerning sexual orientation, Lebanon parliamentary discussions are currently underway on a proposal to repeal Article 534 of the Criminal Code - which criminalizes same-sex relations. At the same time, the Ministry of Public Health continues to ensure the provision of healthcare services without discrimination. All individuals, including members of the LGBTQ community, enjoy equal access to primary healthcare, medicines and public health programmes.

Concerning Palestinian refugees, the Ambassador reaffirmed Lebanon's longstanding commitment to protecting their rights and dignity while fully respecting the Lebanese Constitution, and the principle rejecting permanent settlement. Lebanon remains convinced that improving the daily living conditions and the enjoyment of rights of Palestinian refugees is fully compatible with preserving their right of return and does not prejudice that inalienable right.

Out of 286 recommendations received, 218 enjoyed the support of Lebanon and 62 are noted.

Interactive dialogue

The majority of delegations, that took the floor, welcomed Lebanon in accepting most of the recommendations made and highlighted the constructive engagement demonstrated throughout the Universal Periodic Review.

The **Islamic Republic of Iran** positively acknowledged that Lebanon out of 286 recommendations received, fully supported 224 of them that includes all three recommendations from the country itself. The two recommendations made by the **Republic of Iraq** on enhancing women's participation in political and public life, as well as in the public sector, the judiciary, and law enforcement agencies, and the improvement of living conditions in the Palestinian refugee camps has been accepted by Lebanon.

Jordan stating that given the difficult situation in Lebanon going to the war and the humanitarian economic and security situation and its impact on basic services, called on the international community to support Lebanon's efforts to consolidate rule of law, protect civilians and ensure access to basic services and help the country to preserve its security. **Kuwait** thanked Lebanon for agreeing to own two recommendations concerning guaranteeing high quality inclusive education and providing access to healthcare services, including for the most vulnerable categories.

Noting that the majority of the recommendations were accepted including the ones from the Russian Federation, the **Russian Federation** reiterated its fundamental position in support of the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon and for addressing the most pressing matters on the internal agenda by Lebanese themselves through consensus without foreign interference.

Overall, **NGOs** acknowledged Lebanon's constructive participation in the UPR process and welcomed several accepted recommendations, while stressing that meaningful implementation, stronger accountability mechanisms, and legislative reforms remain essential to address persistent human rights challenges:

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- One organization welcomed Lebanon's acceptance of all 15 recommendations on the **death penalty**, describing it as an unprecedented commitment towards abolition. It encouraged Lebanon to abolish capital punishment, commute all existing death sentences, and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.
 - Speakers highlighted persistent barriers to education, particularly for children lacking legal documentation, and called on Lebanon to guarantee equal access to education and essential services for all **children** without discrimination.
 - Several NGOs regretted Lebanon's rejection of recommendations to **ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and other international treaties**. They urged the Government to strengthen accountability for international crimes, torture, enforced disappearances, and attacks against civilians and journalists.
 - While welcoming Lebanon's acceptance of recommendations on **media freedom and the protection of journalists**, NGOs expressed concern that recommendations to fully decriminalize defamation and end military court jurisdiction over civilians were rejected. They called for stronger protections for journalists, human rights defenders, and civil society.
 - Organizations welcomed recommendations accepted on combating discrimination and **gender-based violence** but regretted Lebanon's refusal to accept recommendations allowing women to pass their nationality to their children and spouses and to withdraw reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

- NGOs noted the continued discrimination faced by **Palestinian refugees**, including restrictions on employment and property ownership, urging Lebanon to address these longstanding issues.
 - Concern was expressed over Lebanon's decision not to support recommendations calling for the repeal of legal provisions criminalizing or enabling discrimination against **LGBTQ+ persons**, as well as the limited support for recommendations on equal access to healthcare.
 - Several interventions raised concerns about the humanitarian and human rights consequences of the ongoing conflict and Israeli military operations, including their impact on civilians, critical infrastructure, healthcare, education, and journalists. They called for accountability, independent investigations into alleged violations of international humanitarian law, and increased international efforts to protect civilians.
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Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (20 country delegations):

Ghana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Malesia, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia.

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (10):

Al Baraem Association for Charitable Work, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Ensemble contre la Peine de Mort, Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale ONLUS, Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) Limited, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, Pars Non-Trading Development Activists Co., United Nations Watch.

To watch the full meeting refer to the [UN WEB TV](#).

Further information [here](#).

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