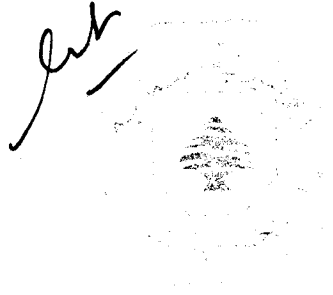


⁹ No.242-M

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants presents its compliments to the diplomatic missions in Lebanon, and in the aftermath of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon which targeted a residential building in the southern suburb of Beirut, has the honor to communicate the government's "pillar" approach paper for long-term stability in South Lebanon.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the diplomatic missions in Lebanon the assurances of its high consideration.

Beirut, 9th of August, 2024



Diplomatic Missions in Lebanon

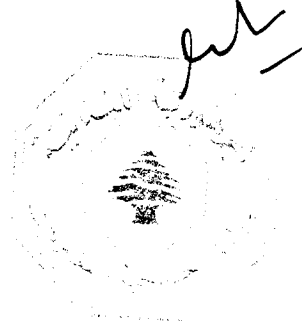

الجمهورية اللبنانية
وزارة الخارجية والمغتربين

الرقم ٢٤٢/و

تُهدي وزارة الخارجية والمغتربين أطيب تحياتها الى كافة البعثات الدبلوماسية المعتمدة لدى لبنان،
وفي أعقاب العدوان الإسرائيلي على لبنان الذي استهدف مبنى سكنياً في الضاحية الجنوبية لبيروت، تتشرف
بايداعها رباطاً نسخة من ورقة الحكومة اللبنانية التي تظهر القواعد الهادفة إلى تحقيق الاستقرار على المدى
الطويل في جنوب لبنان.

تعنتم وزارة الخارجية والمغتربين هذه المناسبة لتعرب الى كافة البعثات الدبلوماسية المعتمدة لدى لبنان
عن فائق احترامها.

بيروت في ٢٠٢٤/٨/٩



**Government of Lebanon pillar approach to for long-term stability
in South Lebanon**

Situational Assessment

The recent missile attack by Israel targeting a residential building in the southern suburb of Beirut showcases the violent pattern of continued Israeli aggression against Lebanon. This attack not only constitutes a major escalation to an already precarious situation, but also represents a serious violation to the principles of International Law which prohibits the targeting of densely populated civilian areas with indiscriminate attacks. This attack, which took place against the backdrop of the horrific carnage in Gaza, has heightened the risks of an all out conflict that could engulf Lebanon and the region.

The Government of Lebanon does believe that an all-out war is avoidable. The Government of Lebanon is committed to protecting the safety and security of its citizens, and retains its right of self-defense according to International Law. But it also believes that de-escalating tensions is the best path forward to avoid an even more destructive cycle of violence that will be much more difficult to contain. However, it cannot act alone. The international community has a critical and immediate role to play in de-escalating tensions, and curbing Israel's continued aggression against Lebanon.

To achieve its aim of de-escalating tension, the government of Lebanon is proposing a sequential and phased approach that can offer an alternative to the current havoc. Such an approach will be goal-driven whose ultimate objective is to reestablish stability.

Short term: de-escalation and cessation of provocative actions:

- The continued escalation in the ongoing conflict, centered in South Lebanon, has the potential to ignite an all-out conflict with a real prospect for a regional spill over. In Lebanon, Israel's continued attacks have led to a significant loss of lives and livelihoods. These attacks have included, destruction of infrastructure and loss of agricultural lands. At this time, international organizations estimate that more than 90,000 Lebanese have been displaced.
- Meanwhile, Lebanon remains committed to International Law, including International Humanitarian Law, and the laws of war. The principles of proportionality, distinction, and necessity must be upheld by all sides to protect civilian lives and property, and avoid further escalation. Lebanon also reserves the right of self-defense according to International Law and the UN Charter.
- Until a full and symmetrical implementation of UNSC resolution 1701 is attainable, an immediate de-escalation / cessation of provocative actions scheme is needed in order to mitigate the risks and protect civilians. Such a scheme should ensure that no action taken today shall pre-empt the ambition for a full recommitment to UNSC resolution 1701 or increase the risk of an all-out conflict.

- The Lebanese government believes that a ceasefire in Gaza will have an immediate impact of calming tensions on the Southern Lebanese front and could pave the way for a sustainable long term stability. In this vein, the Lebanese Government supports President Biden's three-phase ceasefire deal for Gaza and calls for its immediate implementation as per UNSC res 2735.
- Cessation of hostilities in Gaza will open the door for a diplomatic track that the government will fully support. This track is meant to address security concerns along the southern border as well as disputes along the blue line. It is also meant to pave the way for the full implementation of 1701.

Medium term: full and symmetrical implementation of UNSC res 1701

- UNSC res 1701 remains the cornerstone for stability and security in south Lebanon. This resolution had succeeded, notwithstanding Israeli violations, in maintaining relative calm in the area for more than 17 years (2006-2023). Israel has continued to violate the terms of UNSC res 1701 since its adoption through the continuous occupation of Lebanese territory, incursions into Lebanese airspace, aggressive and threatening posture by Israeli political and military actors.
- The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and UNIFIL shall play a pivotal role in this endeavor. To ensure that conditions for the implementation of UNSC res 1701 are present, the government of Lebanon is committed to enlarging the number of LAF personnel with a new recruitment drive.
- The significant levels of destruction that southern Lebanon has witnessed in the last 10 months also require concerted efforts at reconstruction. The government of Lebanon is in the process of putting together a plan for the rebuilding of damaged town and villages and restoring livelihoods.

Lebanese Government: a way ahead

- Lebanon has consistently demonstrated its role as a constructive and reliable interlocutor in the region. The recent understandings on the Maritime borders stand as a testament to Lebanon's commitment to peaceful negotiations and conflict resolution. These maritime understandings not only resolved longstanding disputes but also showcased Lebanon's willingness to engage constructively with honest facilitators. In the coming period, the Government of Lebanon stands ready to engage again and to play its role in avoiding further escalation, while ensuring the safety and security of its citizens, Lebanon's sovereignty and the integrity of its territory.
- The commitment of the Lebanese government to initiate the recruitment process of additional Lebanese soldiers in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 demonstrates a clear dedication to the implementation of this resolution. The decision to recruit more soldiers is a significant step towards enhancing the capacity of the Lebanese armed forces to maintain security and stability in the region. However, the successful implementation of this commitment will require the support and assistance of the international community. This assistance can come in

various forms, including financial support, training, and technical assistance to ensure that the recruitment process is carried out effectively and efficiently.

- By seeking international support, the Lebanese government is not only demonstrating its commitment to fulfilling its obligations under Resolution 1701 but also recognizing the importance of cooperation and collaboration with the international community in addressing security challenges. The assistance provided by the international community will be crucial in strengthening the capabilities of the Lebanese armed forces and promoting stability and security in the region.
- The Lebanese government has consistently shown strong support for the UNIFIL mandate, recognizing its crucial role in maintaining stability along the southern borders. The government of Lebanon emphasized the importance of international support for UNIFIL's mandate and called upon the global community to contribute to this vital effort. The Lebanese government reaffirms its commitment to working closely with UNIFIL to ensure the security and stability of the region.