

Let me start by expressing my appreciation for all the work that the UN is doing in Lebanon particularly during these very difficult times.

Lebanon's complex problems and deep challenges today are the result of many years of avoiding and delay critical reforms.

On behalf of OMSAR, I would like to thank the United Nations for the support provided with regards to three critical pillars of Lebanon's Reform and Recovery.

The first pillar is anti-corruption:

Indeed, Corruption has caused our country to loose valuable resources, not only financial resources, but also human resources.

Lebanon's capital is in its humans and corruption is obstructing their ability to access opportunities including in business, jobs, services, education, health and so on...

For this reason, anti-corruption is one of the priorities, and this priority cannot be achieved unless strong support is provided to the implementation of the national anti-corruption strategy, which we are happy that the UN, particularly the UNDP is providing. We certainly hope for strengthening support in the new UN framework of the cooperation.

This means:

- Support the implementation of the anti-corruption strategy.
- Support the anti-corruption agency.
- Support to the public administration judiciary and civil society.
- Stimulation of coordination between oversight agencies, and other relevant and related activities.

The second pillar is public administration reform where the discussions and planning have progressed to rethink our administration in order to enhance efficiency, transparency and accountability under the oversight of the key control agencies including the Court of Account, the Civil Service Board and the Central Inspection.

This area of work requires increased attention and support particularly in terms of modernizing the Public Administration and make it fit for purpose.

Last but not least, it is important for the new UN country framework to dedicate support to the third pillar, the digital transformation in Lebanon. In addition to its importance in combating corruption, enhancing transparency, developing

administration and improving public services for all citizens, digital transformation is of great importance in stimulating the economy, creating new job opportunities and strengthening the link between the Lebanese and the global economy.

Those 3 governance priorities

- Anti-corruption
- Public administrative reform
- Digital transformation

are the priority for PM Mikati, for the government and are at the heart of OMSAR's mission and mandate.

This is evident at OMSAR, in our effort to push these 3 agendas despite the challenges: I should stress here that our biggest vulnerability at this point is in the brain drain and loss of talent and expertise, from within the administration; we are losing our very best, those who have the skills and institutional memory to support the transition.

I hope that we can think together of a solution to this challenge and find creative ways to retain our committed talent as well as attract new one.

The UN's support is priceless. We hope it will continue till we regain citizen trust, restore governance and move on to produce excellence in the future of Lebanon.