

Ministerial presentation summary

Your Excellency, Honorable Deputies

We are facing a popular protest in which people question the legitimacy of all of us.

Let us all be humble and admit that restoring confidence is done with deeds, not promises.

Lebanon is facing fateful crises that call for painful steps within the framework of a comprehensive rescue plan. And because we are in an exceptional stage, and we inherited it as a government, just as the Lebanese people inherited it, then we, out of the national sense, agreed to take over this task in circumstances where we realize the magnitude of its risks and their accuracy.

The requirements and reforms that we are aware of and are committed to are mainly driven by the demands of Lebanese women & men.

Our ministerial statement is based on a work program that includes a rescue emergency plan, a basket of judicial and legislative reforms, anti-corruption, corrections and treatments in public finance, accompanied by economic measures that stimulate the transition to a productive economy in addition to the social safety net. Among the reforms:

- Using the economic plan prepared by the consulting office of Mackenzie and others
- Reducing interest on loans and deposits to revive the economy and reduce the cost of debt.
- Commit to painful but necessary steps and tools of treatment.

We intend and strive to be:

An independent government of specialists, that recognizes the demands of the movement and communicates with it.

A committed government with a non-sectarian vision, open to dialogue and demanding accountability.

A government that supports the right to freedom of expression and peaceful protest, as well as the efforts of military and security forces.

A government committed to accomplishing an emergency plan within weeks.

We will address people's urgent needs and attach them to a comprehensive, integrated rescue plan in cooperation with international institutions.

The integrated plan runs over three phases, from 100 days to three years.

First: on the reforms

1- Judicial reforms and judicial independence:

Business plan within 100 days from the date of gaining confidence:

Execute laws related to judicial independence and judicial organization

- Speed up the completion of the judicial appointments and formations
- Strengthen the capabilities of the Judicial Inspection Authority to monitor the proper functioning of justice and the self-purification of the judiciary system.
- Seek with the competent judicial bodies to set a general penal policy aimed at protecting public freedoms
- Prepare a draft for a law amending the treatment of maritime property violations mentioned in the 2018 budget Law No. 79 and make the necessary amendments to it and raise the fees.

- Expedite the approval of laws that protect and support women to strengthen their rights and role in politics, especially laws related to domestic violence and the women's "quota".

Business plan within one year from the date of gaining confidence:

- Adopt the principle of the right of the Lebanese mother to grant citizenship to her children while creating judicial oversight mechanisms in view of the country's special conditions.
- Implement the Cabinet Resolution related to Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.
- Approve the bills that accompany the cultural sector, especially the draft law on protecting buildings and Heritage sites.

Business plan from 1 to 3 years

- Launch a legal workshop to update laws to effectively guarantee fundamental human rights, freedoms and rights Equality, accelerate trials and enhance investment climates.
- Establish a guideline to improve prison conditions.
- Develop a comprehensive plan for developing justice palaces.

2- On the fight against corruption

In the first 100 days, the government will:

- Approve the national strategy to combat corruption, expediting its implementation, and issuing practical decrees to a law on the right to access information.
- Urge the competent public prosecution offices to move and prosecute in files that are suspected of corruption and other financial and environmental crimes.
 - Follow-up on investigations and take the necessary measures regarding the funds that were transferred abroad after October 17, 2019, in violation of the law.
 - Strengthen the role of the Audit Bureau in pre and post monitoring and the Central Inspection Authority.
- Achieving and / or amend anti-corruption bills (illicit enrichment, protecting and rewarding those who detect corruption, raising bank secrecy, and raising immunities)

In less than a year, the government is committed to:

Recover the stolen money

- Review Article 13 of the Criminal Procedure Law to facilitate the prosecution of employees in the public sector.

3- On the Cedar conference

We commit to the reforms mentioned in the paper approved at the Cedar Conference, "The Lebanese Government's Vision for Stability, Growth and Employment Opportunities", particularly financial, structural and sectoral reforms.

- We are committed to studying and implementing the projects mentioned in the capital investment program- CIP

We commit to creating an Inter-Ministerial Committee headed by the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, and the membership of the Minister of Finance, Economy and Trade, Industry

and Environment to follow up on the effective and transparent implementation of the reforms and projects mentioned in the conference.

4- On the initial paper of the reform, financial and economic measures

- Review of "reform, financial and economic measures" issued in accordance with Cabinet Resolution No. 1 of 10/21/2019
- Begin implementation of the relevant items gradually after they are confirmed by the government

5- On correcting public finances

On general revenue:

- a. Combat smuggling from legal and illegal crossings. B. Combat tax evasion, stimulate taxation, and pursue muted companies and individuals.
- C. Reform the tax system by adopting a unified progressive tax on all incomes and an upward tax on income, and the unified approval of the tax declaration.

On overhead expenditure:

- a. Combat waste in operating expenses.
- B. Compute the number of real estate properties and buildings occupied by public institutions and departments in preparation for reconsidering their feasibility and value of their leases.
- C. Merge and abolish a number of public institutions and undertake radical reform of institutions, councils and public bodies and tighten the control over them.

On controlling public debt:

- a. Reduce debt service by reducing interest rates on loans and deposits in the private sector and on bank investments at the Bank of Lebanon.
- B. Reduce public debt through the involvement of some public sectors of a commercial nature.

6- On tackling the monetary and banking crisis:

Establish the appropriate and necessary mechanisms to:

- a. Protect depositors' money and prevent secrecy.
 - B. Maintain the safety of currency.
- Restore the stability of the banking system by recapitalizing the banks

7- On addressing the imbalance in the balance of payments

- Encourage exports through exceptional support mechanisms and tax measures.
- Encourage the approval of generic drugs, national drugs in the public sector, and guarantor bodies.
- Contact the international community to stress its duties to bear the burden of Syrian displacement.
- Accelerate the establishment of partnerships in infrastructure projects.

- Communicate with all international institutions, donors or supporters, to secure urgent needs and soft loans to cover the financing needs of the treasury and the economic cycle.

8- On the subject of energy

- Reduce the ceiling of the treasury transfers to the Lebanon Electricity Corporation radically towards the elimination of subsidies in parallel with the implementation of the electricity plan.
- Work towards purchasing fuel for the EDL at the best prices possible.
- Work to raise tariffs, while improving supply in a way that does not affect the poor classes.
- Appoint a new board of directors for the EDL
- Draft a law to amend Law 46/2002) regulating the electricity sector
- Submit to tender the project of extracting natural gas through floating platforms for storage and gasification of natural gas FSRU
- Renew the mandate or appoint a new board of directors for the Petroleum Sector Authority
- The government will adopt the plan that was unanimously approved in the cabinet meeting No. 1 dated 04/4/2019 and confirmed by the reform paper approved by the previous cabinet under resolution 1 on 10/21/2019 with the adoption of amendments and feasible and necessary measures to accelerate the achievement of the previously mentioned goals.
- Promote and market renewable energy through public/private partnerships
- Approve the updated strategy for the water and wastewater sectors.
- Implement measures to enhance energy conservation and efficiency
- Expedite the second licensing session in the oil and gas sectors and approve the sovereign fund law and the national company law.

9 - Strengthening social safety nets

- Provide protection to all segments of the Lebanese society by expanding the base of electronic cards, offering scholarships to poor families, and working to develop a national plan for social protection with the relevant ministries
- Modernize health sector management systems and enhance citizens' health coverage.
- Launch the Lebanese Food Safety Authority and complete board appointments and set practical decrees and internal regulations and appoint a team to help it start working on the tasks assigned to it by law.
- Ensure that medication is provided to citizens according to their needs
- Follow-up to conclude the loan agreement with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to contribute to the financing of the housing project, at a value of 50 million Kuwaiti dinars (about 165 million dollars).
- Study the centralization of purchasing medication, medical needs and supplies through a joint committee of guarantors, chaired by the Minister of Public Health
 - Cooperating with medical service providers and educational institutions in the public and private sectors, to modernize a health safety net based on an integrated health system

10 - Stimulating economic growth

- Developing the national economy from a rentier and services economy that displaces youth and families to a productive economy that creates jobs

- Issue the application texts for laws that stimulate economic growth
- Improve competition by preventing monopoly
- Take decisions and issue the necessary decrees to alleviate the restrictive measures to increase and promote exports.
- Expand the facilities offered by the Banque du Liban and urge it to increase liquidity in US dollars
- Implement a law to abolish all taxes and fees on the export of industrial products and ease procedures. And compel public departments and institutions to apply the advantage given to the national industry in tenders.
- Combat manipulation of bills of origin and customs data, and adopt anti-dumping measures, in addition to providing protection and support for national products.
- Support the Lebanese industries and products and medicines sector
- Seek to secure financing for the import of basic commodities.
- Develop a rural development plan related to the villages concerned.
- Encourage traditional agricultural sectors, agricultural extension, rural preparation and cooperate with customs to control borders to prevent smuggling of agricultural commodities and animal production.
- Work to encourage foreign and domestic tourism, including medicinal, cultural and religious tourism.

11- Activating and modernizing the public administration

In the first 100 days, the government will:

- Appoint deputies of the Governor of the Bank of Lebanon and filling vacancies at the Lebanese University and urgent centers of the first category.
- Establish a higher council to plan to study and follow up on national plans

In less than a year, the government is committed to:

- Fill vacancies on boards of directors of pacemaker corporations & public bodies, and in the remaining centers of the first category and the centers of the second category.
- Seek in cooperation with the House of Representatives to approve the draft law regarding the proportion of general managers who can be appointed from outside the owners and the status of first-class employees who are assigned to act and fill vacancies in second-class centers.
- Monitor the implementation of the comprehensive strategy for digital transformation and e-government, and the executive program thereof
- Complete the electronic registration mode for the civic status form

The government commits to, within 1 to 3 years:

- Reform and / or abolish unnecessary or inefficient ministries, councils, and funds and merge some of them
- Conduct a comprehensive job survey for all sectors of the country, and set an integrated vision that regulates the effectiveness and productivity of employees.

12- structural reforms

- Adopt a policy to improve the work environment to attract internal and external investments
- Commit to and follow-up on all efforts made by the Ministry of Finance to reform the public procurement system, including completing the international survey MAPS and approving and adopting its recommendations, and working on the immediate approval of a modern public procurement bill - a modern structural framework for ministries that considers governance and its basic principles.
- Approve the plan to close the file of the displaced, provided that the criteria, controls and mechanism of action are applied immediately after the decision of the Council of Ministers
- Reform and modernize the National Social Security Fund and appoint the Board of Directors of the Financial Committee and the Technical Committee.

Second: On other projects and plans

1- The Army:

- commit to tender a study and design of a military hospital and the establishment and equipping of medical centers and military clinics in the North, South and Bekaa

2- Environment

- Complete the implementation of the road map for the integrated management of solid waste and recycling and issue the applied texts of Law 80/18
- Complete the implementation of the integrated management policy for the sand and dust mills sector, quarries and crushers, and adopt a directive plan that binds the National Council of Quarries, Crushers, Departments, and all devices.
- Prepare and implement a directive plan to protect mountain peaks, beaches, agricultural lands and green areas, in implementation of the decree of the comprehensive land arrangement plan (2009/2366).

3- Public transport

- Approve the national strategy for road transport in Lebanon and strengthen the partnership between the public and private sectors (PPP)

4- Education and Higher Education:

- Establish appropriate school and university complexes and buildings to secure the safe, nurturing and safe environment for children, especially in the most marginalized remote areas and districts
- Strengthen the role of vocational and technical education
- Modernize and standardize the curricula to keep pace with the times and link them to the labor market and the goals of sustainable development
- Promote formal university education and youth participation in public life

5- Communications

- Launch new services, amend tariffs and fees for some telephone and internet services
- Issue application texts of the law 2002/431 to regulate the telecommunications sector by appointing the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority and establishing the Lebanon Telecom Company - Liban Telecom

- Develop and implement a plan for the cellular sector to improve the quality of service, increase the speed of the Internet, increase revenues and reduce costs

6- Media

- Prepare a unified modern bill for media and communication that protects freedom of opinion and expression and guarantees the rights of workers in this sector
-Set a modern regulatory framework for digital platforms and social networks, create a fund for media professionals, and activate the role of the National Council for Media and Audio

7- Diplomatic relations and alienation:

-Work to establish a database of citizens residing abroad and activate their relationship with their embassies
-Ensure intense communication with friendly Arab states, as well as with members of the International Support Group, and relevant regional international organizations and bodies to provide support to Lebanon
- Activate diplomatic relations in multiple facets, directed to decision makers in different societies.

The government reiterates its commitment to the statement made by His Excellency the President of the Republic, General Michel Aoun, that Lebanon, although moving alongside mines, is still far from the fire burning around it in the region, thanks to the unity of the Lebanese people and its adherence to its civil peace. Hence, the necessity for Lebanon to distance itself from external conflicts, committed to respecting the charter of the League of Arab States.

- As for the conflict with the Israeli enemy, the government affirms the state's duty and its endeavor to liberate the Shebaa Farms and the hills of Kafr Shuba and the Lebanese part of the village of Ghajar, by various legitimate means. While stressing the right of Lebanese citizens to resist the Israeli occupation, return its attacks and regain the occupied lands.

The government affirms that the National Accord Document (the Taif Agreement) and the constitution that derives from it are the basis for preserving stability and civil peace and the basic preserve of national balance.

The government is also committed to circumventing the army and security institutions in combating terrorism and Israeli espionage networks.

We reaffirm our commitment to the Arab peace initiative emanating from the Arab Summit in Beirut in March 2002.

We adhere to the principle of demarcating maritime borders in accordance with international laws, customs and standards to stabilize borders in order to preserve marine wealth. We also seek to strengthen the maritime and air forces in order to protect platforms, territorial waters and the special economic zone.

On the assassination of the martyr Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and his companions, we will follow up on the advancement of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon that was initially established

to achieve truth and justice, away from any politicization or revenge, and that does not negatively affect Lebanon's stability, unity, and civil peace.

On the crime of the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr and his two brothers in Libya, the government will redouble its efforts at all levels and will support the official follow-up committee with the aim of liberating them and returning them safely.

The government will continue to work with the international community to fulfill its commitments announced in the face of the burden of Syrian displacement and respect for international covenants.

The government renews its welcoming to the Russian initiative to return Syrian refugees to their countries.

Based on the foregoing, the government is committed to implementing paragraph 13 of Cabinet Resolution No. 1 of 21/1/2019 which stipulated the request from the Minister of Social Affairs to submit a policy paper for the return of displaced people to be approved within a month of the date of its submission.

The government adheres to the provisions of the constitution rejecting the principle of resettlement and adherence to the right of return to the Palestinians. We will also work with friendly countries to find a solution to the funding crisis for the UNRWA and employ the Palestinian refugees.

The government is committed to moving forward to achieve the goals of the United Nations sustainable development.

- The government will work to achieve the initiative of His Excellency the President to establish an Academy for agreement & dialogue in Lebanon following the decision taken by the General Assembly of the United Nations, on September 16, 2019, that was close to a unanimity, and to finalize all legal measures to this end once the signature of the international agreement aimed at its establishment by ten countries is completed.

Finally, The government will work on preparing a draft law for parliamentary elections that reflects the convergence of the Lebanese people's movement in the public squares and simulates their aspirations.