



**Statement**

**by**

**H.E. Dr. Nawaf Salam  
Permanent Representative of Lebanon  
to the United Nations**

**at the  
Economic and Social Council Forum  
on Financing for Development Follow-up**

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*Check against delivery*

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Lebanon aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Kingdom of Thailand on behalf of G77 and China.

Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset to commend you on your efforts at ensuring the success of this inaugural Forum on Financing for Development.

In upcoming years, this Forum will play a crucial role in following-up and monitoring the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which will be critical for the realization of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its SDG's and targets.

This year's Forum comes at the backdrop of persistent and emerging global challenges and risks, including extreme poverty, rising inequality, unemployment, climate change, communicable diseases, volatile capital flows, low commodity prices, spiraling conflict, violence, extremism, and the worst wave of refugee forced displacement since World War II.

These challenges and risks must be addressed in an integrated manner that balances the three dimensions of sustainable development, and through the mobilization of adequate domestic and international public and private resources, transfer of technology, and building human and technical capacities in developing countries.

Of course, an enabling environment, at the national and international levels, is an indispensable prerequisite for facilitating such a monumental task. Stable and peaceful societies, strong and representative national and international institutions, good governance, rule of law, gender equality and women empowerment, a vibrant private sector and civil society, are among many others, essential elements for sustainable development.

Mr. President,

Today, Lebanon faces multiple complex humanitarian and developmental challenges precipitated by the influx of more than 1.2 million Syrian refugees into the country as a result of the ongoing crisis in Syria. This has had a significant impact on the country's economic growth prospects, it increased unemployment levels, and left the country's infrastructure overstretched in many sectors, including health, education, housing, energy, water, sanitation and transport.

Addressing such a formidable challenge cannot be undertaken solely through the narrow prism of short term humanitarian funding, or the classic stratification of developing countries as least developed or middle income. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda considered that development finance can contribute to prevent or combat situations of chronic crisis, and recognized the need for coherence of developmental and humanitarian finance to ensure more timely and comprehensive approaches to the management of similar complex emergencies. Longer term developmental funding of national crisis response plans, spearheaded by international and regional development banks, is thus essential to deal with protracted refugee crises of this magnitude and length. Host communities and host countries of refugees are literally providing a **"global public good"**, and if their medium and long term resilience needs are not adequately met, spillover effects across borders and seas will become the norm not the exception, seriously threatening the security, economic and developmental prospects in both developed and developing countries alike.

Thank you.