

Statement delivered by Acting Permanent Representative of Lebanon

Mrs. Jeanne Mrad

**at the 56th session of the Commission on Population and Development, 10-14
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Mr. Chair,

We would like to join previous speakers and delegates in conveying our congratulations to you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the 56th session of the Commission on Population and Development,

Lebanon would like to associate itself with G77 statement as delivered by distinguished delegate of Cuba.

Mr. Chair,

- Lebanon is facing multi layered social, economic and humanitarian crisis affecting population welfare and livelihoods coupled with increase in poverty levels due to increased inflation, devaluation in the currency and decreased purchasing power.
- These compounding crises are causing further hardship to people in vulnerable situation, aggravating existing imbalances, inequalities, multidimensional vulnerabilities and risks.
- Many consequences resulted from these crisis including brain drain of young productive workforce, a fragile social welfare, an overstretched health system, vulnerable government institutions, to name but a few.
- As this year's CPD theme is about Population, Education and Sustainable Development, it is worthy to note that the education system in Lebanon has also been heavily affected by these multiple crisis. Financial crisis and the influx of Syrian refugees since 2011 has put tremendous pressure on Lebanon's education system, growing gaps in learning outcomes, migration of teachers and educators abroad for better financial security, the interruptions in the school programme strongly affected by the energy crisis, the low wages to the school cadre due to hyper inflation, etc. All of those factors are undermining one of Lebanon prominent sectors: education

-Funding support to Lebanon is being significantly reduced while the needs are exponentially increasing, and the funding necessary to implement country programs - not only on the humanitarian side – but also on the development side

-The scarcity of updated data at national and subnational levels continues to be a challenge that is hampering adequate programming and forecasting of national and sectoral plans.

- Despite these drastic challenges, the Government of Lebanon and through line ministries, national commissions and public administrations and civil society is committed to take actions for ensuring sector reforms including the ones in accordance with the follow up to the implementation of the Programme of Action of ICPD as we approach it's 30 years commemoration in 2024.

- in partnership with many actors - including UNFPA, the following strategic outcomes were realized in the past 3 years:

- o Development of national strategy for older persons in Lebanon (2022-2023)

- o Development of national Women strategy (2022-2030)

- o Development of National Social Protection Strategy

- o Development of national Strategy for Persons with Disabilities (currently under review)

- o Development of National Youth Policy and its Action Plan

- o Development of Strategic Plan on the Protection of Women and Children (2020-2026)

- o Development of National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

- o Development of a hospital based maternal mortality system

- o Providing life saving services to women in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as in the field of Gender Based Violation

- It is also hoped that the Five-Year General Education Plan offers a new vision to restore trust in the public education system and to address the structural challenges and urgent needs of the education sector to ensure Lebanon is on track to achieving inclusive and equitable quality education, in line with SDG4.

- As Lebanon is currently reviewing its progress on the implementation of ICPD, the key findings from this review will be used to gear the momentum in this regard with the hope of leaving no one behind.

Thank you Mr. Chair.