



Statement

by

Lebanon

at the Sixth Committee

Item 86: **“The rule of law at the national and international levels”**

Sub-Topic: “Measures to Prevent and Combat Corruption”

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***Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY 10017***

Mr. Chair,

When announcing the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize recipient, the Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee declared: *“the need for international solidarity and multilateral cooperation is more conspicuous than ever.”*

Lebanese saw firsthand this international solidarity and multilateral cooperation in action in the aftermath of the Port of Beirut explosion, notably through the World Food Programme.

This is but one of the many manifestations of multilateralism and of its impact. The latest report of the Secretary-General on Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities shows, in this regard, the extent of the UN support to keep promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels; in particular under these circumstances.

Here, my delegation can only reiterate its support to a rules-based international order and the imperative of upholding human rights law.

Mr. Chair,

In these times of turmoil, corruption seems to be rampant. As highlighted in the Secretary-General report, *“Corruption runs counter to the very concept of the rule of law, undermines the legitimacy of the State, undercuts development efforts and is a destabilizing force.”*

We believe that the convening of the first-ever UN General Assembly Special Session against Corruption in 2021, is an opportunity to bolster the global efforts to prevent and combat corruption. Lebanon, a party to UN Convention against Corruption, looks forward to this Special Session.

Mr. Chair,

Lebanon is facing severe socioeconomic difficulties, exacerbated by the pandemic. In October of last year, Lebanese from all over the country, from all social backgrounds took to the streets to demand change with more transparency, accountability and good governance through robust reforms.

A key challenge today in addressing the much needed issue of comprehensive structural reform is to prevent and combat all forms of corruption, with its devastating effect on the financial, economic and political dimensions of a society. This can only be done by consolidating accountability, transparency and good governance, essential features in the promotion of the rule of law.

Efforts have been made towards this objective, especially through:

- The adoption in April 2020 of a comprehensive anti-corruption law. It creates the National Anti-Corruption Commission, whose role is to investigate allegations of corruption in the public sector, refer cases to the judiciary, and oversee the enforcement and compliance of anti-corruption laws.

- The adoption in May 2020, with the cooperation of UNDP and other international partners, of the first-ever Anti-Corruption National Strategy for 2020-2025. It sets an integrated framework for immediate action.
- The establishment of a specific Office to receive and process complaints in corruption cases. It aims at reinvigorating the 2018 Whistleblower Protection Law, which sets the legal framework for exposing corruption and misconduct in the public sector, and provides protection for the whistleblowers.

The civil society, Mr. Chair, has also been instrumental in the anti-corruption efforts, from their role in raising awareness to advocating stronger legal framework and more robust mechanisms.