



Statement

by

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Permanent Representative of **Lebanon**

to the United Nations

at the **virtual** ceremony

to mark the **commemoration**

of the signing of the

"Charter of the United Nations"

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

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Friends from around the world,

This UN Charter Day is a special Day for Lebanon; a small country, but large with the dreams and values it lives by. Lebanon is one of the founders of the United Nations, one of the earliest signatories of its Charter, and was one of the 51 countries present in San Francisco in 1945. Thus, making Lebanon proud to participate in the 75th anniversary.

That moment of time in San Francisco was historic and created a future of hope for succeeding generations. It saved millions from the scourge of war, but unfortunately, it did not succeed in maintaining international peace and security.

Today, We the Peoples of the world, with Lebanon foremost among them, stand together by calling for unity, solidarity, and the discontinuation of the machine of war around the world. We want peace for this generation and succeeding generations to be a reality, and not mere elegant words in the Charter that nobody abides by.

Small countries and countries in vulnerable situations, who understand the value of the Charter more than anyone else, want governments and the people of the world to put this document into action. After 75 years, it is time for the Charter's principles to be enshrined in every action and move we make, to make this world a better place.

We celebrate the UN Charter in a very challenging time for humanity and the planet as a whole. The pandemic confirmed our weaknesses as human beings, but it also showed our strength. We need to capitalize on our strengths and work together to build a better world that is more safe, sustainable, peaceful, and equitable.

We want the words of the Charter to be put into action to “maintain international peace and security”, solve conflicts by peaceful means “in conformity with the principles of international law”, and “uphold the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples”.

Lebanon, as one of the drafters of the Human Rights declaration, abides by the Charter in its path to a better world by promoting "respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction to race, sex, language, or religion".

As a small country, Lebanon finds protection in the UN's principle of the "sovereign equality of all its members", which is enshrined in its Charter.

We, in Lebanon, as all the Peoples' of the United Nations, "reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and nations large and small".

The United Nations multilateral values and the principles of its Charter are challenged today, more than ever. Although we succeeded in putting off wars, there are still many other conflicts raging. Although we saved millions from the misery of economic hardships and diseases, there are still millions of people who are poor and homeless, including stateless refugees displaced around the world. Although we achieved measures of social justice, inequality and racism are still two dangerous pandemics ravaging our world today.

We need to do more and we need to do better. The United Nations is the sum of us. We need to build better and rebuild smarter to achieve a kinder world than before.

Even with a pandemic that put our planet on pause, on this UN Charter Day, let us push a different button to restart our world. If we continue from where we left off and stay on the same path by continuing to ignore the principles that saved our world 75 years ago, it will be a false start. We will be stuck in a futureless world.

Let us start a new page on this historic anniversary. Let us start building for peace, internal peace, peace amongst nations, peace for our world, peace for this generation, and peace for the generations that follow. We can do it. Just take the pledge to be peacemakers in everything we do. Let's start now.