

Lebanon

Mid-term Implementation Assessment



Promoting and strengthening
the Universal Periodic Review
<http://www.upr-info.org>



Introduction

1. Purpose of the follow-up programme

The second and subsequent cycles of the review should focus on, inter alia, the implementation of the accepted recommendations and the development of the human rights situation in the State under review.

A/HRC/RES/16/21, 12 April 2011 (Annex I C § 6)

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process takes place every four and half years; however, some recommendations can be implemented immediately. In order to reduce this interval, we have created an update process to evaluate the human rights situation two years after the examination at the UPR.

Broadly speaking, *UPR Info* seeks to ensure the respect of commitments made in the UPR, but also, more specifically, to give stakeholders the opportunity to share their opinion on the commitments. To this end, about two years after the review, *UPR Info* invites States, NGOs, and National Institutions for Human Rights (NHRI) to share their comments on the implementation (or lack thereof) of recommendations adopted at the Human Rights Council (HRC) plenary session.

For this purpose, *UPR Info* publishes a Mid-term Implementation Assessment (MIA) including responses from each stakeholder. The MIA is meant to show how all stakeholders are disposed to follow through on, and implement their commitments. States should implement the recommendations that they have accepted, and civil society should monitor that implementation.

While the follow-up's importance has been highlighted by the HRC, no precise directives regarding the follow-up procedure have been set until now. Therefore, *UPR Info* is willing to share good practices as soon as possible, and to strengthen the collaboration pattern between States and stakeholders. Unless the UPR's follow-up is seriously considered, the UPR mechanism as a whole could be adversely affected.

The methodology used by UPR Info to collect data and to calculate index is described at the end of this document.

Geneva, 22 November 2013

Follow-up Outcomes

1. Sources and results

All data are available at the following address:

<http://followup.upr-info.org/index/country/lebanon>

We invite the reader to consult that webpage since all recommendations, all stakeholders' reports, as well as the unedited comments can be found at the same internet address.

21 stakeholders' reports were submitted for the UPR. 35 NGOs were contacted. 2 UN agencies were contacted. The Permanent Mission to the UN was contacted. No National Human Rights Institution does exist.

16 NGOs responded to our enquiry. 1 UN agency did respond.

The State under Review did not publish a mid-term report; however, they answered the following:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of Lebanon is currently in the process of preparing an informal report on the implementation of the UPR recommendations of the first cycle, in close coordination with all relevant government bodies. This voluntary initiative aims at focussing the preparations for the coming UPR cycle, and possibly constituting a useful rehearsal exercise for the multi-stakeholder team that will be working on producing the national report for the second UPR cycle.

The following stakeholders took part in the report:

1. **UN Agency:** (1) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
2. **NGOs:** (1) ABAAD (ABAAD) (2) Act for Human Rights + IKV Pax Christi International (ALEF) (3) Arab NGO Network for Development (joint submission of 27 NGOs in which Center for Refugees Rights – Aidoun, Lebanese Association for Self-Advocacy, Lebanese Center for Human Rights, Partnership Center for Development and Democracy) (joint) (4) Developmental Action without Borders (DAWB) (5) Frontiers Ruwad Association (FRA) (6) Helem (Helem) (7) Jo Hammoud (individual) (8) Lebanese Disabled People's Organizations + Youth Association of the Blind + Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network (LDPO) (9) Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture (RESTART)



IRI: 61 recommendations are not implemented, 21 recommendations are partially implemented, and 9 recommendations are fully implemented. No answer was received for 54 out of 149 recommendations and voluntary pledges (full list of unanswered recommendations is available at the end of this document).

2. Index

Hereby the issues which the MIA deals with:

rec. n°	Rec. State	Issue	IRI	page
4	Algeria	Disabilities, International instruments	not impl.	page 38
10	Algeria	NHRI	not impl.	page 66
67	Algeria	Women's rights	partially impl.	page 57
78	Algeria	Labour	partially impl.	page 26
80	Algeria	Labour, Rights of the Child	partially impl.	page 63
29	Australia	Rights of the Child, Trafficking	-	page 47
32	Australia	Rights of the Child, Women's rights	not impl.	page 50
95	Australia	Death penalty, International instruments, Justice	not impl.	page 39
68	Bahrain	Women's rights	partially impl.	page 57
54	Bangladesh	General	not impl.	page 71
22	Belgium	International instruments, Torture and other CID treatment	not impl.	page 41
25	Belgium	International instruments, Torture and other CID treatment	not impl.	page 43
49	Belgium	Torture and other CID treatment, Treaty bodies	not impl.	page 71
56	Belgium	Torture and other CID treatment	not impl.	page 41
87	Belgium	Asylum-seekers - refugees	not impl.	page 38
90	Belgium	Death penalty	not impl.	page 44
93	Belgium	Death penalty, International instruments	not impl.	page 39
41	Brazil	Labour, Migrants	partially impl.	page 12
109	Brazil	Women's rights	not impl.	page 65
24	Canada	International instruments, Torture and other CID treatment	-	page 43
98	Canada	Death penalty	not impl.	page 44
108	Canada	Women's rights	not impl.	page 64
1	Cote d'Ivoire	International instruments	not impl.	page 37
64	Cuba	Development	fully impl.	page 21
77	Cuba	Right to education, Right to health	partially impl.	page 25
9	Egypt	NHRI	not impl.	page 66
44	Egypt	Asylum-seekers - refugees, Technical assistance	fully impl.	page 30
62	Egypt	ESC rights - general	fully impl.	page 16
72	Egypt	Rights of the Child	fully impl.	page 58
142	Finland	Asylum-seekers - refugees, Labour	-	page 35
57	France	Detention conditions	not impl.	page 43
91	France	Death penalty	not impl.	page 44
101	France	International instruments, Torture and other CID treatment	not impl.	page 40
18	Germany	International instruments, Torture and other CID treatment	not impl.	page 41
19	Germany	Torture and other CID treatment	not impl.	page 41



rec. n°	Rec. State	Issue	IRI	page
100	Germany	Death penalty	not impl.	page 44
11	Greece	NHRI	not impl.	page 66
15	Greece	Other	partially impl.	page 40
30	Iran	Disabilities,Rights of the Child,Women's rights	partially impl.	page 48
40	Iran	Labour	not impl.	page 10
16	Ireland	International instruments,Torture and other CID treatment	not impl.	page 41
97	Ireland	Death penalty	not impl.	page 44
99	Italy	Death penalty,International instruments	not impl.	page 39
81	Jordan	Labour,Rights of the Child	fully impl.	page 63
38	Kuwait	Right to education	not impl.	page 8
55	Kuwait	CP rights - general,ESC rights - general	fully impl.	page 16
2	Mexico	Disabilities,International instruments	not impl.	page 37
33	Mexico	Women's rights	partially impl.	page 50
17	Netherlands	International instruments,Torture and other CID treatment	not impl.	page 41
20	Netherlands	Torture and other CID treatment	not impl.	page 41
105	Netherlands	Women's rights	not impl.	page 64
36	Nicaragua	Women's rights	fully impl.	page 56
31	Norway	Women's rights	not impl.	page 50
35	Norway	Women's rights	partially impl.	page 55
42	Norway	Asylum-seekers - refugees,Labour	not impl.	page 28
79	Norway	Labour	not impl.	page 26
89	Norway	International instruments,Women's rights	not impl.	page 39
106	Norway	Women's rights	not impl.	page 64
111	Norway	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity	not impl.	page 45
120	Norway	Asylum-seekers - refugees,Freedom of movement	not impl.	page 35
47	Oman	Treaty bodies	not impl.	page 70
43	Pakistan	Asylum-seekers - refugees,Technical assistance	fully impl.	page 29
63	Pakistan	Right to education,Right to health	partially impl.	page 17
143	Palestine	Asylum-seekers - refugees	not impl.	page 37
28	Poland	Labour,Rights of the Child,Trafficking	-	page 47
141	Poland	International instruments,Rights of the Child	partially impl.	page 65
37	Qatar	National plan of action,Right to education	not impl.	page 8
75	Qatar	Disabilities,Right to education,Rights of the Child	not impl.	page 61
14	Russian Federation	National plan of action	not impl.	page 69
13	Saudi Arabia	Other	not impl.	page 68
76	Saudi Arabia	Human rights education and training	partially impl.	page 24
21	Slovakia	Torture and other CID treatment	not impl.	page 42
92	Slovakia	Death penalty	not impl.	page 44
6	Spain	Disabilities,International instruments	not impl.	page 38
23	Spain	Human rights violations by state agents,Torture and other CID treatment	not impl.	page 43
34	Spain	International instruments,Women's rights	partially impl.	page 51
88	Spain	International instruments,Women's rights	not impl.	page 39



rec. n°	Rec. State	Issue	IRI	page
96	Spain	Death penalty	not impl.	page 44
51	Sri Lanka	Labour	not impl.	page 16
52	Sri Lanka	Labour	not impl.	page 12
12	Sudan	NHRI	not impl.	page 66
71	Sudan	Women's rights	partially impl.	page 58
83	Sudan	Asylum-seekers - refugees, Technical assistance	fully impl.	page 32
69	Syria	Women's rights	partially impl.	page 57
5	Thailand	Disabilities, International instruments	not impl.	page 38
45	Thailand	Asylum-seekers - refugees, Technical assistance	partially impl.	page 30
53	Tunisia	General	not impl.	page 71
3	Turkey	Disabilities, International instruments	not impl.	page 37
82	United Arab Emirates	Labour, Rights of the Child	partially impl.	page 63
94	United Kingdom	Death penalty, International instruments	not impl.	page 39
107	United Kingdom	Women's rights	not impl.	page 64
70	United States	Women's rights	partially impl.	page 58
65	Venezuela	Poverty	partially impl.	page 21
50	Yemen	Asylum-seekers - refugees, Right to education	not impl.	page 31
73	Yemen	Right to education	partially impl.	page 23

3. Feedbacks on recommendations

ESC Rights

Recommendation n°37: *Finalize the national action plan on education for all and improve the quality of education* (Recommended by Qatar)

IRI: *not implemented*

joint submission of 27 NGOs among which Arab NGO Network for Development, Center for Refugees Rights – Aidoun, Lebanese Association for Self-Advocacy, Lebanese Center for Human Rights, Partnership Center for Development and Democracy (joint) response:

The public spending on education (% GDP) is in continuous decrease in Lebanon, from 2% in 2008 to 1.6% in 2011, which is less than half what other Arab countries spend on education. This adds to the disparities in the quality of the public system and private education and creates further inequalities in the enjoyment of the right to education. In this regard, whereas the National Action Plan for Education aims to tackle the shortcomings in the quality of the education system, the low quality of education in public schools leads to de facto discrimination against students who are not able to afford private schoolings.

Furthermore, a national strategy for early childhood is still lacking and intentions to raise the age for free compulsory education to 15 have yet to be translated into action.

Civil society groups in Lebanon recommend:

- Enhance the quality of public education, developing a new unified curriculum, establishing and implementing quality-oriented strategies especially for public schools in rural areas, and adapting the school environment to the basic needs of children and people with disabilities.
- Focus reform efforts on increasing and maintaining enrolment rates, reducing and reinserting dropouts, giving incentive premiums for teachers to serve in poor areas, establishing continuing education programs for teachers, and expanding maintenance of the existing educational infrastructure.
- Ensure a fair employment process that grant the teachers their rights in particular good salaries, and that ensure continuity in their work. Ensure that any National Education strategy aims at modernizing the education system, adopts a gender based approach.

Recommendation n°38: *Continue efforts to counter the brain drain to foreign countries and strengthen standards of professional education related to the main economic activities in the country* (Recommended by Kuwait)

IRI: *not implemented*

Joint response:

Whereas to counter brain drain necessitates the quality of jobs in the market to match with the education attainment of youth, Lebanon continues to struggle with brain drain to foreign countries. This derives from the quality of the jobs created aside from their quantity. Moreover the challenge to create decent jobs is core to the problem of brain drain. From different educational backgrounds, Lebanese youth “prefer to leave Lebanon either temporarily or permanently to work abroad, leading to a decline in the country’s human capital and welfare.” For instance, nearly 40% of all doctors who graduated from Lebanese medical schools over the past 25 years currently practice in the United States.

Civil society organizations recommend Lebanese government to:

- Tackle brain drain in relation to mismatch of education and job sector

Developmental Action without Borders (DAWB) response:**a. Access to education**

The public expenditure on education in Lebanon continues to drop from 2% in 2008 to 1.6% in 2011, which is less than the half of what other Arab countries spend on education. This adds to the disparity in the quality of public and private education and creates more inequality of enjoyment of the right to education. In this regard, and as the national plan of education aims to address deficiencies in the quality of the educational system, the low quality of education in governmental schools leads to de facto discrimination against students who are unable to afford private schools.

An approximate of 40% of the Syrian Refugees populations is in school age, at the time that the Lebanese government set a target of enrolling only 60% of them in governmental schools. The UNHCR noted that 30,000 of refugee children at school age out of an estimated number of 120,000 children are enrolled in public schools for the current academic year. It is estimated that another 10,000 children are involved in special education programs.

Moreover, the national strategy for early childhood is still absent, and the intent to rise the age of compulsory free education to 15 years old is still not yet translated into action.

[...]

c. Quality education

Despite our appreciation to the listed recommendation regarding setting “ideal standards for formal education”, we believe that the quality of formal education would be ensured only through developing a new unified curriculum, through the introduction of a prevention program that addresses dropping out of education, through the development and implementation of quality-oriented strategies especially for public schools in rural areas, through the adaption of schools environment to the basic needs of children and people with disabilities and lastly through prohibiting double-shifts in schools.

In terms of higher education, the Lebanese University is still limited. In fact, private universities have a significant contribution in this sector; the rate of enrollment at



private universities has increased from 40% in 2000-2001 to 57% in 2008 - 2009. But this does not guarantee that all citizens have access to education as the high tuition fees decrease their ability to get enrolled in these universities which create further violations for the right to education. On the other hand, the Lebanese University with its limited funding from governmental, political and sectarian authorities contending and hindering its development cannot accommodate the growing demand from students.

To foster the quality of high education, the Lebanese Association for Educational Sciences drafted a bill providing for the establishment of the Council for Quality Assurance in Higher Education. The bill was drafted as per the request of the Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Hassan Mneimneh, who introduced the bill to the Council of Ministers. This bill is considered a basis for a new stage of developing higher education in Lebanon, as it would contribute to restore its status and ensures its quality, as it fulfill the needs of the labor market.

The coordinating committee constituted of the members of the Lebanese Association for Educational Sciences drafted the bill and organized for this purpose two seminars in the attendance of representatives from universities and institutes of higher education in Lebanon and a number of heads of agencies of quality assurance from some Arab and foreign countries.

[...]

Recommendation n°40: Reinforce its efforts to regulate labor relations in a framework that safeguards dignity and rights and is consistent with international standards, in particular with regard to ancillary or domestic workers (Recommended by Iran)

IRI: not implemented

Joint response:

During the 2010 review, the right to work issue in Lebanon was covered mainly regarding child labor, Palestinian refugees and the domestic workers. Yet, the lack of comprehensive employment policy in Lebanon and support to productive sector that generates employment is a core challenge for the full realization of the right. Indeed, as World Bank report states, Lebanon needs to generate around 20,000 additional jobs per year over the next decade, transform its economy into a productive model and reform social protection.

The economic policies implemented in Lebanon although generated growth did not contribute necessarily job creation indicating the problematic of the sectors supported in the rentier-economy model. Between 1997 and 2009, the gross domestic product expanded at an average rate of 3.7 percent per year, yet employment grew by only 1.1 percent," the report said.

According to December 2011 CAS labor statistics, unemployment rates are high among highly skilled persons in Lebanon, 9% for those persons who have already obtained their university degrees and 8% for persons with secondary level of education. With the exception of people without any formal educational attainment, the unemployment rate was higher for women than men regardless of the level of



education achieved. At just over 14%, the unemployment rate was particularly high for women with secondary level education.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the people with disabilities right to work which is guaranteed by the law 2000/220, paragraph 68 is not respected. People with disabilities can see their candidatures refused because of their disability, let it be in the public or private sector. Cases were also observed about transferring the job applications of people with disabilities to work sections that do not correspond to their qualifications only because of their disability. Paragraph 73 of the law 2000/220 stipulated that 3% of jobs in the public sector should be given to disabled people, but this has not been implemented. As far as labor standards are concerned, Lebanon launched procedures in January 2012 to ratify International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 87 on the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize. Yet it remains not ratified.

Frontiers Ruwad Association (FRA) response:

Not implemented. There is a committee working to draft a law to protect the rights of domestic workers, but nothing has been issued yet.

DAWB response:

[...]

Due to the fact that registered Syrian refugees can live and work in Lebanon, their integration in the Lebanese economic cycle was easy as much as they can find a job opportunity. But at the same time, this led to more challenges, as the competition for labor among the Lebanese and the refugees from Syria has increased the rates of unemployment and poverty in the hosting areas. This is reflected negatively on the lives of marginalized groups within these areas, especially children, people with disabilities and women. Apart from abusing refugee workers who are paid low wages, they caused the exchange of a lot of workers which created malice and hatred of the hosting community toward the refugees. However the refugee workers are neither respected nor protected as their wages are not being paid regularly and they lack decent working conditions, especially those who are unregistered at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

[...]

a. Domestic workers

Lebanon still did not make any improvement for the working conditions of the domestic workers and in particular migrant domestic workers. Many structural problems still exist, namely: the unified work contract which does not guarantee or provide minimum rights for migrant domestic workers, they lack legal redress and protection, they are not protected from illegal employment practices, there is no control on private agencies, they lie under restrictive rules and practices for migration (the sponsorship system connect the worker to one single employer throughout the working length of stay); altogether increase the vulnerability of migrant domestic workers put them at risk of abuse and even trafficking. To address the special vulnerabilities of migrant domestic workers, the Lebanese government must consider modifying or replacing the existing sponsorship system and expand the coverage of the Lebanese labor law to include domestic workers. In fact, after the visit conducted



to Lebanon in October 2011, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery prompted the Lebanese government to issue protection laws to protect an estimated number of 200,000 migrant domestic workers who have been facing abuse from their employers, in form of excessive working hours, non-payment of wages, confinement in the workplace and in some cases physical and sexual abuse.

Certain developments in the situation of migrant workers / migrant domestic workers include the following:

On 1st of June 2010 the Minister of Labor announced the ministry hotline to receive complaints of migrant domestic workers. However, any call was not received until the 7th of July 2010, due to lack of information and dissemination among migrant domestic workers.

As part of the ongoing efforts of the UNHCR and the International Labor Organization to protect and promote the rights of domestic workers in Lebanon, they launched a voluntary code of conduct which provides guidance for recruitment agencies on how to promote and protect the rights of migrant domestic workers and from the Union of Owners of Workers Recruitment Agencies in Lebanon (SORAL) in Lebanon which will begin by June 2013. Recruitment agencies that agree to sign the Code of conduct voluntarily commit themselves to protection migrant workers from all forms of discrimination, physical and sexual and other forms of abuse.

These agencies are obliged to explain to the migrant workers the expected labor rights and duties at the beginning of the contractual relationship, as well as introducing both, worker and employer to their rights and obligations using a language that is understandable for the migrant worker. The union will raise the accountability of those agencies that violates the Code. The agencies that violate the Code of Conduct and for example facilitate job opportunities that lead to forced labor and abuse will be blacklisted.

The Code of Conduct includes among other things, transparency in business processes, providing full information to workers about the working conditions in Lebanon, verifying the worker qualifications, and they should not facilitate the placement of workers below the legal working age.

[...]

Recommendation n°41: *Develop appropriate legal frameworks for the enjoyment of the right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work to all migrant workers especially domestic workers (Recommended by Brazil)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

+

Recommendation n°52: *Regulate labour relations with special reference to ancillary or domestic workers (Recommended by Sri Lanka)*

IRI: *not implemented*

Joint response:

Lebanon has made no progress in improving the situation of domestic workers, in particular migrant domestic workers. Several structural problems remain, these are: a unified employment contract that does not guarantee or grant minimum rights for migrant domestic workers; a lack of legal redress and protection for migrant domestic workers; illegal recruitment practices and lack of monitoring of private agencies that replaced the National Institute for employment which is legally the only institute which can recruit migrant domestic workers; restrictive immigration regulations and practices (i.e., the sponsorship system) that tie a worker to a single employer for the duration of her stay in Lebanon), and which increase the vulnerability of migrant domestic workers to abuse and even trafficking. To address migrant domestic workers' vulnerabilities, the Lebanese government should look into reforming or replacing the sponsorship system and extending coverage of the Lebanese labor law to domestic workers. Indeed, following a visit to Lebanon in October 2011, the UN special rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery urged the government to enact laws to protect the estimated 200,000 migrant domestic workers who face exploitation and abuse by employers, including excessive work hours, non-payment of wages, confinement in the workplace, and in some cases, physical and sexual abuse.

Certain developments on the situation of migrant/domestic workers include the following:

June 1, 2010 Minister of Labor announced a hotline at the ministry to receive complaints migrant domestic workers. However as of 7 July 2010, no single call, due to lack of information and dissemination of information among the MDWs.

As part of OHCHR and ILO's ongoing efforts to protect and promote the rights of domestic workers in Lebanon, a voluntary Code of Conduct providing guidance to recruiting agencies on promoting and protecting the rights of migrant domestic workers was launched with the Syndicate of the Owners of Recruitment Agencies (SORAL) in Lebanon by June 2013. Under the Code, recruitment agencies that agree to sign the Code are obligated to protect workers placed by the agency from all forms of discrimination, physical and sexual abuse and other forms of exploitation. The agencies are duty-bound to clarify worker and employment rights, and expected duties at the very beginning of the contract relationship. They introduce workers and employers to their rights and obligations and communicate in a language that is understood by the worker. SORAL will review internally agencies that violate the Code. Agencies that violate the code of conduct by facilitating work placements leading to forced labor and exploitation for instance, will be blacklisted. Some of the principles upheld in the Code of Conduct include, among others, transparency in business operations; the provision of full information to the worker about conditions of employment in Lebanon; the verification of the worker's qualification and no placement of underage workers .

Yet civil society groups note that without concrete implementation mechanism and relevant self-accountability and disciplinary actions, the code of conduct will not be effective [...]

FRA response:

Not implemented. There is a committee working to draft a law to protect the rights of domestic workers, but nothing has been issued yet.

DAWB response:

During the 1st review session conducted on 2010, the right to work in Lebanon has been addressed, mainly in relation to child labor, the Palestinian refugees and domestic workers. However, lacking a comprehensive work policy that supports the productive sector which generates jobs is the fundamental challenge that hinders full realization of this right. In fact, the World Bank report indicates that Lebanon needs to generate annually about 20,000 additional job opportunities over the next decade, transform its economy into a productive model and reform social protection.

Despite that the economic policies implemented in Lebanon generated growth; it did not necessarily contribute to creating new job opportunities, which indicates a problematic in the sectors applied in the rentier economy. The report said that GDP grew between 1997 and 2009 at an average annual rate of 3.7%, while employment grew by only 1.1%.

According to labor statistics issued by the Central Administration of Statistics in 2011, unemployment rates among highly skilled people in Lebanon is increasing, 9% among those who have already obtained a university degrees are unemployed and 8% among persons with secondary level of education are also unemployed. Excluding those who did not pursue their official education, the unemployment rate was higher for women than for men, regardless of the education level achieved, it was estimated to slightly more than 14%. The unemployment rate was high especially for women with secondary education.

Due to the fact that registered Syrian refugees can live and work in Lebanon, their integration in the Lebanese economic cycle was easy as much as they can find a job opportunity. But at the same time, this led to more challenges, as the competition for labor among the Lebanese and the refugees from Syria has increased the rates of unemployment and poverty in the hosting areas. This is reflected negatively on the lives of marginalized groups within these areas, especially children, people with disabilities and women. Apart from abusing refugee workers who are paid low wages, they caused the exchange of a lot of workers which created malice and hatred of the hosting community toward the refugees. However the refugee workers are neither respected nor protected as their wages are not being paid regularly and they lack decent working conditions, especially those who are unregistered at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

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control on private agencies, they lie under restrictive rules and practices for migration (the sponsorship system connect the worker to one single employer throughout the working length of stay); altogether increase the vulnerability of migrant domestic workers put them at risk of abuse and even trafficking. To address the special vulnerabilities of migrant domestic workers, the Lebanese government must consider modifying or replacing the existing sponsorship system and expand the coverage of the Lebanese labor law to include domestic workers. In fact, after the visit conducted to Lebanon in October 2011, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery prompted the Lebanese government to issue protection laws to protect an estimated number of 200,000 migrant domestic workers who have been facing abuse from their employers, in form of excessive working hours, non-payment of wages, confinement in the workplace and in some cases physical and sexual abuse.

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These agencies are obliged to explain to the migrant workers the expected labor rights and duties at the beginning of the contractual relationship, as well as introducing both, worker and employer to their rights and obligations using a language that is understandable for the migrant worker. The union will raise the accountability of those agencies that violates the Code. The agencies that violate the Code of Conduct and for example facilitate job opportunities that lead to forced labor and abuse will be blacklisted.

The Code of Conduct includes among other things, transparency in business processes, providing full information to workers about the working conditions in Lebanon, verifying the worker qualifications, and they should not facilitate the placement of workers below the legal working age.

[...]



Recommendation n°51: *Expedite their consultation on the bill to grant domestic workers annual leave and provide cooperation with social workers to monitor their working conditions* (Recommended by Sri Lanka)

IRI: *not implemented*

FRA response:

Not implemented. There is a committee working to draft a law to protect the rights of domestic workers, but nothing has been issued yet.

DAWB response:

[See response to recommendation n° 41]

Recommendation n°55: *Continue the search for appropriate solutions to the challenges outlined in the report and with which citizens are faced with regard to the full enjoyment of basic political, economic, social and cultural rights* (Recommended by Kuwait)

IRI: *fully implemented*

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Recommendation n°62: *Further pursue its efforts to ensure the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights* (Recommended by Egypt)

IRI: *fully implemented*

Joint response:

The violations of economic and social rights in Lebanon can be mainly related to the failure of economic and social policies adopted by successive governments in addressing national developmental challenges. The latter includes chronic unemployment, poverty, weakening productive sectors, increasing inequalities, geographic disparities, and lack of social protection. The rentier economic approaches, weakly managed privatization, and overall economic liberalization policies favored by governments, coupled with weak regulatory infrastructure and capacities, have limited the ability of the state to respond to the needs and necessities of various citizens. Moreover, the long history of political instability and violence, combined with the frequent wars with Israel, has led to further limitations on the capacities to progressively fulfill the obligations in the field of economic and social rights. The effects of such instability have led to the focus on narrow security agendas and rehabilitation related to immediate needs instead of building comprehensive human security approaches that integrate long-term development policies. Furthermore, the progressive achievement of social and economic rights has been hindered by a political system entrenched by confessionalism and encouraging nepotism and abuse of power. Within this context, the government's approach to development focused on economic growth indicators (on individual sectors as tourism, agriculture, industry, etc) or merely on basic services remains counter-productive and not responsive to challenges faced with regard to the full enjoyment of basic economic and social rights.

On March 2012, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers has prepared a 7-point action plan for social and economic reform that includes: (1) managing public debt and financial reform; (2) revitalizing the private sector; (3) enhancing infrastructure; (4) human development; (5) regional and rural development; (6) institutional and administrative reform; and (7) other support factors. Whereas the engagement of all



relevant stakeholders, including civil society and private sector is a must for ensuring the reform process' success, it is also important to note that the reform process should contribute to reshaping economic and financial systems and adopting new policies for social development while consolidating human rights and ensuring equity.

In this regard, civil society organizations note that

- Lebanon should aim to approach development by looking at all sectors in a holistic and comprehensive manner, by understanding societal aspirations, and by strengthening national identity.
- Instead of focusing exclusively on free trade agreements (bilateral, regional and multilateral) including WTO accession (in progress since 1998), the government should articulate a national strategy for protecting and developing productive sectors including agriculture, industry and services
- Embrace the principles of fair trade and support the global movement towards the fair exchange of goods and services.
- Improve economic and social planning for local development together with efficient and effective mechanisms to deal with corruption and impunity
- Given the violations on equity principle in enjoyment of rights and the gap between the urban and rural areas deriving from high tendency of centralization, ensure proper and effective de-centralization through substitutive and financial authorities delegated to local authorities elected democratically.

Recommendation n°63: *Continue its policies and programmes to improve the efficiency and quality of basic social services such as health and education for its citizens* (Recommended by *Pakistan*)

IRI: *partially implemented*

Joint response:

Despite the appreciation in the recommendation to the “excellent standards of the public education” civil society groups contributed to this report believe that the quality of public education needs to be rather ensured through developing a new unified curriculum, introducing a dropout prevention program, establishing and implementing quality-oriented strategies especially for public schools in rural areas, and adapting the school environment to the basic needs of children and people with disabilities, while working towards banning double shifts in schools.

With regard to higher education, the public university remains limited, indeed private universities making a major contribution to the sector, with their share of enrolment rising from 40% in 2000-01 to 57% in 2008-09. However this does not ensure accessibility and affordability of all citizens to this education creating further violations for the right of education for majority. On the other hand, the Lebanese University, with limited government funding and conflicting political and sectarian interests hindering its development, has been unable to accommodate increased student demand. This necessitates launching an effective and time-bound reform program of the Lebanese University system that addresses issues of access, curriculum, tenure-ship, governance, management, and administration.

In order to enhance the quality assurance in higher education, the Lebanese Association for Educational Studies has completed the formulation of a draft law for



the establishment of a Board of Quality Assurance in Higher Education. The draft law was prepared at the request of the Minister of Education and Higher Education who then referred it for the approval of the Council of Ministers. The draft law is viewed as a basis for a new phase in the development of higher education in Lebanon, restoring its high status and ensuring its quality, particularly that it feeds the needs of the labor market.

A coordinating committee composed of members of the Lebanese Association for Educational Studies has worked to prepare the draft law and organized for this purpose two seminars that included representatives from universities and institutes of higher education in Lebanon and a number of heads of quality assurance agencies in some Arab and foreign countries. Whereas Lebanon received general recommendations during its UPR review in 2010 and presents a success story at the Ministry of Health official website with extracts from the WHO report 2010 on Lebanon's reforms and on improving health system efficiency, increasing coverage and lowering out-of-pocket spending, the health system in Lebanon and the quality of health services remain challenging for the majority of the population. The health care system, mostly based on private sector does not ensure accessibility and affordability for all citizens equally. Indeed the recent incident of a death of uninsured child reflected the core problem; lack of universal health coverage in Lebanon.

Given this context, below are some progress undertaken by the government towards improving the efficiency and quality of health sector:

On August 17, 2011, the Lebanese Parliament passed the new tobacco control law number 174. This law officially makes Lebanon a 100% smoke-free country; it also comprehensively bans tobacco product advertising, promotion and sponsorship; and it establishes health warnings covering 40% of both fronts of the pack.

Number of awareness campaigns were launched by the Ministry of Health since the UPR revision, including

- Asthma awareness campaign, Hepatitis B & C Campaign (aiming at tackling these deceases by providing a 50% discount on tests..),
- Heart failure campaign,
- Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign
- Cervical Cancer Awareness Campaign
- Hand Hygiene Awareness Campaign
- National anti-drugs Campaign

Civil society groups' recommendations on the enjoyment of the right to health include:

- Reform the health system in order to establish a health policy that prioritizes protection of the citizen in need of health services, preserves the right to adequate information in the health sector, and promotes a stable and long-lasting partnership between the public and private health sectors.
- Strengthen the regulatory role of the state in the health sector, define the role of the different public and private stakeholders, monitor their performance thus



rooting out corruption and waste, and enhance the effectiveness of the administrations

- Ensure the availability, accessibility, and quality of health services provided by public hospitals and primary health care centers in rural areas.
- Develop a unified, sustainable, and equitable plan to ensure universal social security for all Lebanese, and to unify the social security funds
- Ensure the revival of the National Office for medicines that imports medicines for the social security funds with good prices, in particular its role as a competitor for the private sector.
- Grant the appropriate attention to women's special health needs and include the issues of reproductive and sexual health in the plans related to improving the health sector.

DAWB response:

a. Access to education

The public expenditure on education in Lebanon continues to drop from 2% in 2008 to 1.6% in 2011, which is less than the half of what other Arab countries spend on education. This adds to the disparity in the quality of public and private education and creates more inequality of enjoyment of the right to education. In this regard, and as the national plan of education aims to address deficiencies in the quality of the educational system, the low quality of education in governmental schools leads to de facto discrimination against students who are unable to afford private schools.

An approximate of 40% of the Syrian Refugees populations is in school age, at the time that the Lebanese government set a target of enrolling only 60% of them in governmental schools. The UNHCR noted that 30,000 of refugee children at school age out of an estimated number of 120,000 children are enrolled in public schools for the current academic year. It is estimated that another 10,000 children are involved in special education programs.

Moreover, the national strategy for early childhood is still absent, and the intent to rise the age of compulsory free education to 15 years old is still not yet translated into action.

[...]

c. Quality education

Despite our appreciation to the listed recommendation regarding setting "ideal standards for formal education", we believe that the quality of formal education would be ensured only through developing a new unified curriculum, through the introduction of a prevention program that addresses dropping out of education, through the development and implementation of quality-oriented strategies especially for public schools in rural areas, through the adaption of schools environment to the basic needs of children and people with disabilities and lastly through prohibiting double-shifts in schools.

In terms of higher education, the Lebanese University is still limited. In fact, private universities have a significant contribution in this sector; the rate of enrollment at private universities has increased from 40% in 2000-2001 to 57% in 2008 - 2009. But



this does not guarantee that all citizens have access to education as the high tuition fees decrease their ability to get enrolled in these universities which create further violations for the right to education. On the other hand, the Lebanese University with its limited funding from governmental, political and sectarian authorities contending and hindering its development cannot accommodate the growing demand from students.

To foster the quality of high education, the Lebanese Association for Educational Sciences drafted a bill providing for the establishment of the Council for Quality Assurance in Higher Education. The bill was drafted as per the request of the Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Hassan Mneimneh, who introduced the bill to the Council of Ministers. This bill is considered a basis for a new stage of developing higher education in Lebanon, as it would contribute to restore its status and ensures its quality, as it fulfill the needs of the labor market.

The coordinating committee constituted of the members of the Lebanese Association for Educational Sciences drafted the bill and organized for this purpose two seminars in the attendance of representatives from universities and institutes of higher education in Lebanon and a number of heads of agencies of quality assurance from some Arab and foreign countries.

[...]

d. Access to education for children with special needs

Regarding the integration of children with special needs in the formal education, no progress is achieved yet due to the absence of a national integration strategy for children with disabilities in education. Despite the law 220/2000 that provides for the right of education for persons with disabilities in Part VII, there are many obstacles still hindering their ability to access education, these obstacles include:

- The absence of statistics, data and studies relating to persons with disabilities,
- Lack of public and private schools with infrastructure and environment equipped to host persons with disabilities, including visually or mentally or physically disabled
- The absence of modifications in the curriculum and the associated resources , to match the needs of learners with disabilities either visually or mentally or physically disabled
- Lack of sufficient staffing in the education sector and the public sector beside the absence of trainings aiming to enable staffs to deal with the needs of persons with disabilities
- Facing continuous challenges alongside the continuous receipt of substantial financial allocations from the government by the buffer institutions, which contributes to the perpetuation of an exclusion policy

According to the "Background Paper for Education for All, EFA paper" issued by the UNESCO in 2010" the vast majority of children with disabilities lies in special care institutions as private schools apply certain policies to automatically get rid of students with disabilities"



In terms of institutional structure, the Education Committee of the National Council on Disability Affairs is still ineffective, thus half of those who receive a disability card are uneducated.

[...]

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[...]

In the health field, about half of the Syrian and Palestinian refugees from Syria are not provided the medical care they need . In light of this fact, many diseases that have been considered to be extinct are currently infecting these populations such as polio and tuberculosis. This can be referred to lacking access to health care due to the increased pressure imposed on the health facilities where the Syrian refugees are hosted, as these facilities are insufficient for the hosting community. Moreover, the living conditions in overcrowded areas accompanied by the unhealthy conditions are causing more diseases and infections . Serious problems rise with non-registered refugees. The survey conducted by " Doctors without Borders " in the Beka'a Valley reveals that 56% of registered refugees have had access to free health care in hospitals , compared to 20 % of non- registered, 47% of registered refugee children had been vaccinated, compared with 27 % of non- users .

In this frame we call the Lebanese State to:

- Strengthen health facilities and ensure easy access to health care (primary and basic health care), especially where Syrian and Palestinian refugees from Syria are hosted.
- Coordinate with humanitarian organizations to provide humanitarian aid, including food, shelter and medicine, in order to improve the general living conditions of the refugees, ensure the quality of the provided services and to avoid overlapping with other service providers so that services and aids can span all the refugees.
- Give priority to provide psycho-social support for traumatized refugees, especially women and children, people with disabilities and the elderly.

Recommendation n°64: *Continue applying the strategies and plans for the socio-economic development of the country* (Recommended by Cuba)

IRI: *fully implemented*

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Recommendation n°65: *Continue consolidating social programs and measures adopted to date, that are key in fighting poverty and social exclusion, with actions that increase the provision of social services, giving priority to the most deprived sectors of society, to advance in the achievement of the highest attainable level of wellbeing for its people* (Recommended by Venezuela)

IRI: *partially implemented*

Joint response:

Poverty remains a key challenge in Lebanon, with 28.5% with 8% of those living in extreme poverty (UNDP report). Whereas 83% of the Lebanese population believes that poverty elimination is government's responsibility, 48% states that the programs are not effective at all. 84% notes that such programs should serve the poor in general but not be focused on specific groups like widows, orphans. Yet the approach of government remains limited, based on a narrow definition of poverty,



limiting the poor to a particular class, and seeking to help them directly through in-kind donations and financial services without addressing the root causes of poverty.

Given this context, below are some progress undertaken by the government towards consolidating social programs and measures in fighting poverty and social exclusion:

On October 2011, Lebanon launched the national program to support the poorest families of the national. By February 2013, 65,000 families applied to the program and 45,000 families were approved in the first phase. Additional 18,500 families began receiving benefits by 2013. The program aims to support these families through providing free hospitalization, preliminary health care, medicine, exemption of poorest] families from tuition fees in government schools in all phases and ensuring school books. The program includes different initiatives, including beneficiaries' receipt of a discount of 20,000 Lebanese pounds (\$13) on their electricity bill or elderly beneficiaries to receive a food basket every three months for instance. By 2013 the new initiative the card Hala started that enables beneficiaries to obtain health coverage in 30 government and 44 private hospitals, and covers the cost of drugs for chronic diseases. It also provides free registration and textbooks for students in public schools.

The program is beneficial especially with regard to mapping out the poverty and establishing a database of information on poverty yet is limited and necessitates a new approach that focuses on developing a long term comprehensive social plan addressing the root causes of this poverty remains critical for Lebanon. As stated in the National Report to UN Sustainable Development Conference Rio+20, civil society in Lebanon notes that "poverty cannot be addressed by targeting only specific segments of the society and improving the income of the poorest families will not stop the intergenerational transfer of poverty. Instead, poverty can best be addressed by reducing socio-economic burdens through the provision of affordable and high-quality basic services including clean water, energy, public transportation and housing as well as health and education including free schooling". In this regard, it is important to restate that ensuring public services with regard to education, health care equally to all citizens is a state obligation, that should rather be based on comprehensive national plans for long-term, rather than short-term project based funds allocations.

On October 2011, Social Affairs Minister announced a new measure to help Lebanese with disabilities secure housing loans. Around 84,000 holders of disability cards in the country are eligible under the new measure, which aims to ensure equality between all Lebanese citizens. However civil society organizations highlight the lack of effective implementation of the law for ensuring progress and equality for the rights of persons with disabilities.

The 2012 Lebanese budget includes the VAT rise from 10% to 12%, and taxes on interest from bank deposits to 8% from 5%. However the studies reveal that "tax rate increases will have major negative impacts on the welfare of the middle class and households living just above the poverty line. Overall poverty in Lebanon, currently evaluated at almost 30% of the population, might increase to 35 and even 50% as



the VAT rate is moved to 12 and 15%”. This increase in VAT while corresponding to the commitments made under the problematic Paris III reform agenda, brings in further negative impacts on the living conditions of the poor population in Lebanon.

Civil society organizations recommend:

- Adopt a new and comprehensive approach to poverty reduction that addresses the root causes of poverty
- Build, sustain and develop a database on poverty in Lebanon with disaggregated data
- Revise the commitments made under Paris III through a national dialogue process with a rights-based policy approach and accordingly revise the taxation policy in Lebanon in order to avoid the negative impacts and ensure the adoption of a fair taxation policy based on progressive direct taxation that contributes to the redistribution of wealth in Lebanon.

DAWB response:

[On] March 2012, the Lebanese Prime Ministry prepared a plan of action constituted of seven points for social and economic reform. The plan of action included: (1) public debt management and fiscal reform, (2) stimulating the private sector, (3) strengthening the infrastructure, (4) human development, (5) development of regional and rural areas, (6) institutional and administrative reform and (7) other supportive factors. All stakeholders shall be involved in the reform process, including civil society and the private sector to ensure the success of the reform process, so that they have the chance to contribute to the restructuring of the economic and financial systems and in the adoption of new policies for social development, for the promotion of human rights and to ensure social justice.

[...]

Recommendation n°73: Improve the quality of public education in order to preserve the excellent standards which have prevailed in Lebanon for decades at the different levels of education (Recommended by Yemen)

IRI: partially implemented

Joint response:

Despite the appreciation in the recommendation to the “excellent standards of the public education” civil society groups contributed to this report believe that the quality of public education needs to be rather ensured through developing a new unified curriculum, introducing a dropout prevention program, establishing and implementing quality-oriented strategies especially for public schools in rural areas, and adapting the school environment to the basic needs of children and people with disabilities, while working towards banning double shifts in schools.

With regard to higher education, the public university remains limited, indeed private universities making a major contribution to the sector, with their share of enrolment rising from 40% in 2000-01 to 57% in 2008-09. However this does not ensure accessibility and affordability of all citizens to this education creating further violations for the right of education for majority. On the other hand, the Lebanese University, with limited government funding and conflicting political and sectarian interests hindering its development, has been unable to accommodate increased student



demand. This necessitates launching an effective and time-bound reform program of the Lebanese University system that addresses issues of access, curriculum, tenure-ship, governance, management, and administration.

In order to enhance the quality assurance in higher education, the Lebanese Association for Educational Studies has completed the formulation of a draft law for the establishment of a Board of Quality Assurance in Higher Education. The draft law was prepared at the request of the Minister of Education and Higher Education who then referred it for the approval of the Council of Ministers. The draft law is viewed as a basis for a new phase in the development of higher education in Lebanon, restoring its high status and ensuring its quality, particularly that it feeds the needs of the labor market.

A coordinating committee composed of members of the Lebanese Association for Educational Studies has worked to prepare the draft law and organized for this purpose two seminars that included representatives from universities and institutes of higher education in Lebanon and a number of heads of quality assurance agencies in some Arab and foreign countries.

DAWB response:

[See response to recommendation n° 38]

Recommendation n°76: *Intensify efforts to spread a culture of human rights through educational curricula and awareness-raising campaigns* (Recommended by Saudi Arabia)

IRI: *partially implemented*

Joint response:

Lead by the Integrated Working Group for Human Rights of the United Nations Country Team and in collaboration with the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO, teach-ins were scheduled to be launched on the UN-day in October 2011 and will take place in various high-schools and universities throughout Lebanon. The teach-ins aimed to contribute to the long-term prevention of human rights abuses and violent conflict, the promotion of equality and sustainable development and enhancement of participation in decision-making process.

These teach-ins focus on nine key issues on which Lebanon has accepted recommendations during its Universal Periodic Review:

- Torture,
- Enforced disappearance
- Human trafficking
- Migrant domestic workers
- Palestinian and other refugees, non-citizens and minorities
- Women
- Children
- Persons with disabilities

The 'teach-ins' or classes held in 30 schools and four universities, reached over 2,500 students



DAWB response:

[See response to recommendation n° 38]

Recommendation n°77: *Continue applying the programs and measures aimed at guaranteeing health and education of quality for its citizens (Recommended by Cuba)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

Joint response:

Whereas Lebanon received general recommendations during its UPR review in 2010 and presents a success story at the Ministry of Health official website with extracts from the WHO report 2010 on Lebanon's reforms and on improving health system efficiency, increasing coverage and lowering out-of-pocket spending, the health system in Lebanon and the quality of health services remain challenging for the majority of the population. The health care system, mostly based on private sector does not ensure accessibility and affordability for all citizens equally. Indeed the recent incident of a death of uninsured child reflected the core problem; lack of universal health coverage in Lebanon.

Given this context, below are some progress undertaken by the government towards improving the efficiency and quality of health sector:

On August 17, 2011, the Lebanese Parliament passed the new tobacco control law number 174. This law officially makes Lebanon a 100% smoke-free country; it also comprehensively bans tobacco product advertising, promotion and sponsorship; and it establishes health warnings covering 40% of both fronts of the pack.

Number of awareness campaigns were launched by the Ministry of Health since the UPR revision, including

- Asthma awareness campaign, Hepatitis B & C Campaign (aiming at tackling these deceases by providing a 50% discount on tests..)
- Heart failure campaign
- Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign
- Cervical Cancer Awareness Campaign
- Hand Hygiene Awareness Campaign
- National anti-drugs Campaign

Civil society groups' recommendations on the enjoyment of the right to health include:

- Reform the health system in order to establish a health policy that prioritizes protection of the citizen in need of health services, preserves the right to adequate information in the health sector, and promotes a stable and long-lasting partnership between the public and private health sectors.
- Strengthen the regulatory role of the state in the health sector, define the role of the different public and private stakeholders, monitor their performance thus rooting out corruption and waste, and enhance the effectiveness of the administrations
- Ensure the availability, accessibility, and quality of health services provided by public hospitals and primary health care centers in rural areas.



- Develop a unified, sustainable, and equitable plan to ensure universal social security for all Lebanese, and to unify the social security funds
- Ensure the revival of the National Office for medicines that imports medicines for the social security funds with good prices, in particular its role as a competitor for the private sector.
- Grant the appropriate attention to women's special health needs and include the issues of reproductive and sexual health in the plans related to improving the health sector.

DAWB response:

[See response to recommendation n° 63]

Recommendation n°78: *Continue efforts to address the problems in connection with domestic workers with a view to increasing protections for this vulnerable group* (Recommended by Algeria)

IRI: *partially implemented*

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Recommendation n°79: *Establish mechanisms for monitoring the employment of domestic workers* (Recommended by Norway)

IRI: *not implemented*

Joint response:

Lebanon has made no progress in improving the situation of domestic workers, in particular migrant domestic workers. Several structural problems remain, these are: a unified employment contract that does guarantee or grant minimum rights for migrant domestic workers; a lack of legal redress and protection for migrant domestic workers; illegal recruitment practices and lack of monitoring of private agencies that replaced the National Institute for employment which is legally the only institute which can recruit migrant domestic workers; restrictive immigration regulations and practices (i.e., the sponsorship system) that tie a worker to a single employer for the duration of her stay in Lebanon), and which increase the vulnerability of migrant domestic workers to abuse and even trafficking. To address migrant domestic workers' vulnerabilities, the Lebanese government should look into reforming or replacing the sponsorship system and extending coverage of the Lebanese labor law to domestic workers. Indeed, following a visit to Lebanon in October 2011, the UN special rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery urged the government to enact laws to protect the estimated 200,000 migrant domestic workers who face exploitation and abuse by employers, including excessive work hours, non-payment of wages, confinement in the workplace, and in some cases, physical and sexual abuse.

Certain developments on the situation of migrant/domestic workers include the following:

June 1, 2010 Minister of Labor announced a hotline at the ministry to receive complaints migrant domestic workers. However as of 7 July 2010, no single call, due to lack of information and dissemination of information among the MDWs.



As part of OHCHR and ILO's ongoing efforts to protect and promote the rights of domestic workers in Lebanon, a voluntary Code of Conduct providing guidance to recruiting agencies on promoting and protecting the rights of migrant domestic workers was launched with the Syndicate of the Owners of Recruitment Agencies (SORAL) in Lebanon by June 2013. Under the Code, recruitment agencies that agree to sign the Code are obligated to protect workers placed by the agency from all forms of discrimination, physical and sexual abuse and other forms of exploitation. The agencies are duty-bound to clarify worker and employment rights, and expected duties at the very beginning of the contract relationship. They introduce workers and employers to their rights and obligations and communicate in a language that is understood by the worker. SORAL will review internally agencies that violate the Code. Agencies that violate the code of conduct by facilitating work placements leading to forced labor and exploitation for instance, will be blacklisted. Some of the principles upheld in the Code of Conduct include, among others, transparency in business operations; the provision of full information to the worker about conditions of employment in Lebanon; the verification of the worker's qualification and no placement of underage workers .

Yet civil society groups note that without concrete implementation mechanism and relevant self-accountability and disciplinary actions, the code of conduct will not be effective and thus call the Lebanese government to:

- Adopt and effectively implement protective and regulatory framework for domestic workers, including introducing regulations for greater oversight of recruitment agencies, in contribution to the Code of Conduct that serves for enhancing the transparency of the placement process of migrant domestic workers
- Revive the role of the National Institute for employment and allocate a budget to the National Institute for Employment in order to prepare and orient disabled people in the labor market
- Abolish the sponsorship 'kafala' system with regards to migrant domestic workers and replace it with an employment based visa system to (a) operationalize supervision of the Ministry of Labor on domestic workers' employment processes and working conditions, as well as on the practice of employment agencies and (b) investigate cases of abuse and provide legal protection for domestic workers.
- Respect the international labor standards at work especially regarding Conventions 87 and 111, and ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and the ILO Convention on Domestic Work, 189
- Given the clear violation of the Right to Association and the Right to Decent Work as Article 7 of the Lebanese Labor Law does not cover domestic workers, farmers and agricultural workers, and workers in government and municipal administrations, as well as daily workers, amend the Labor Law to include these groups and ensure equal rights' protection.
- Establish a clear and permanent mechanism to facilitate the participation of disabled people in the tests of the Civil Service Council in order to ensure that 3% of jobs in the public sector are given to people with disabilities.



- Implement the paragraph 74 of the law 2000/200 stating that employers should employ a certain percentage of disabled people according to the general numbers of employees. In order to do that ensure that:
 - Employers receive fines if they don't respect the law
 - The National Social Security fund stops issuing clearances to employers disobeying the law
 - Encourage employers to employ people with disabilities by reducing the income taxes in case they employ more disabled people according to paragraph 75 of the law
- Ensure the Ministry of Labor follows the submitted complaints from people with disabilities about violations of their rights by employers .
- Grant domestic workers the right to have syndicates
- Enforce the judicial institutions responsible of treating labor disputes especially the 'Labor arbitration councils' by increasing their numbers in the governorates and districts, and improving their work mechanism taking into consideration that some cases take years to be treated.

Minorities

Recommendation n°42: That amendments to the Labour Law and the Social Security Law granting Palestinian refugees the right to work be made operational as soon as possible (Recommended by Norway)

IRI: not implemented

Jo Hammoud (individual) response:

Under the title "Right to Return", the Lebanese government still denies Palestinian the right to work in approximately 75 different jobs. The (somewhat) general consensus to abide by the Palestinians' right to return is misused as an excuse to debar them from joining the foreign labor quota (of 10%) which subsequently denies them the right to join unions and benefit from social services and be employed even if the employee qualifies. In relation to international conventions, the aforementioned practices violate Article 23 of the International Declaration of Human Rights- Articles 23, 24 from the Refugee Convention of 1951- Articles 6, 7 from the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights- Article 2 from the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

DAWB response:

During the 1st review session conducted on 2010, the right to work in Lebanon has been addressed, mainly in relation to child labor, the Palestinian refugees and domestic workers. However, lacking a comprehensive work policy that supports the productive sector which generates jobs is the fundamental challenge that hinders full realization of this right. In fact, the World Bank report indicates that Lebanon needs to generate annually about 20,000 additional job opportunities over the next decade, transform its economy into a productive model and reform social protection.



Despite that the economic policies implemented in Lebanon generated growth; it did not necessarily contribute to creating new job opportunities, which indicates a problematic in the sectors applied in the rentier economy. The report said that GDP grew between 1997 and 2009 at an average annual rate of 3.7%, while employment grew by only 1.1%.

According to labor statistics issued by the Central Administration of Statistics in 2011, unemployment rates among highly skilled people in Lebanon is increasing, 9% among those who have already obtained a university degrees are unemployed and 8% among persons with secondary level of education are also unemployed. Excluding those who did not pursue their official education, the unemployment rate was higher for women than for men, regardless of the education level achieved, it was estimated to slightly more than 14%. The unemployment rate was high especially for women with secondary education.

Due to the fact that registered Syrian refugees can live and work in Lebanon, their integration in the Lebanese economic cycle was easy as much as they can find a job opportunity. But at the same time, this led to more challenges, as the competition for labor among the Lebanese and the refugees from Syria has increased the rates of unemployment and poverty in the hosting areas. This is reflected negatively on the lives of marginalized groups within these areas, especially children, people with disabilities and women. Apart from abusing refugee workers who are paid low wages, they caused the exchange of a lot of workers which created malice and hatred of the hosting community toward the refugees. However the refugee workers are neither respected nor protected as their wages are not being paid regularly and they lack decent working conditions, especially those who are unregistered at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

In this frame we call the Lebanese State to:

- Adopt a comprehensive work strategy that grant the labors rights in Lebanon and work for the integration of the Palestinian and Syrian Refugees from Syria in the economic cycle, in which this can be done through legalizing the residency who illegally entered Lebanon, through enhancing their enrollment process at the UNHCR and at the UNRWA and through supporting them to get work permits
- Enhance the awareness of the hosting community and the Palestinian and Syrian Refugees from Syria about their right to work and the legal framework that regulate their working conditions in order to protect them from abuse With respect to the work standards, on January 2012, Lebanon started the measures to ratify the ILO, International Labor Convention No. 87 concerning the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention. However it is still not ratified.

[...]

Recommendation n°43: *Seek international assistance in the provision of basic services to the refugees (Recommended by Pakistan)*

IRI: fully implemented



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) response:

Since the onset of the Syria crisis, the Government of Lebanon has welcomed international assistance for Syrian refugees, notably participating in the Regional Response Plan in 2013 and further appealing from the international community and the International Support Group for Lebanon for even greater assistance to meet basic humanitarian needs of Syrian refugees.

FRA response:

Implemented for Syrian refugees only. Lebanon called for international assistance

Individual response:

Lebanon is still requesting international financial and technical support from donor countries in the UN. Despite the promises of intervention to aid in the crisis of Syrian and Palestinian refugees, there had been no actual substantial contribution or political will except a financial contribution that does not cover the needs of Syrian refugees alone.

Recommendation n°44: *Continue to strive to obtain international assistance and technical advice to face the pressures in connection with the reception and hosting of refugees, and in his regard strengthen cooperation with relevant international organizations* (Recommended by *Egypt*)

IRI: *fully implemented*

UNHCR response:

The Government of Lebanon has requested UNHCR assistance and cooperation in addressing the reception of refugees at the border and within the territory; joint projects are currently being undertaken to that effect.

FRA response:

Implemented for Syrian refugees. Lebanon called for international assistance. There is cooperation with UNHCR on the assistance provided to Syrian refugees.

Individual response:

International NGOs (INGOs) provide certain basic services for Palestinians within refugee camps; specifically in the areas of education, reproductive health, food, clothing and social activities for children. However, the needs of the Palestinians in camps exceeds what INGOs are providing since there is a visible decrease in funding by donor countries.

Recommendation n°45: *Step up its efforts, with the continued cooperation and assistance by the UNHCR and relevant stakeholders, in addressing the protracted refugee situation* (Recommended by *Thailand*)

IRI: *partially implemented*

UNHCR response:

The Government of Lebanon has continued its cooperation with UNHCR and the inter-agency response in addressing the protracted needs of refugees in light of the severe over-stretching of national service providers for the additional refugee population. Sectoral and technical working groups have been established and involve Government participation, albeit this could be strengthened. Community support



projects and other efforts are being made to address assistance for host communities.

FRA response:

Not implemented. No new policies or guidelines or measures are in place or even discussed concerning protracted refugee situations

Recommendation n°50: *Ensure that education covers all areas of the country, including the living areas of refugees, bearing in mind that the mandate of the UNRWA covers the educational needs of Palestinian refugees. (Recommended by Yemen)*

IRI: not implemented

Joint response:

According to UNRWA, 2011 Report Better schools, Brighter Future, In Lebanon, Palestinian refugee children and young people have restricted access to the public school system. Furthermore, the cost of private education in Lebanon is among the highest in the region and most families do not have the financial resources to enroll their child in one of these institutions. 8% of the Palestine refugee population of school age (7- 15 years) were not enrolled in school in 2010. 10% of the population aged over 15 years have never attended school at all. Only half of young people of secondary school age (16-18 years) are enrolled in schools or Vocational Training Centers Two-thirds of Palestinians above the age of 15 do not have the Brevet. Only 5 % of Palestinians hold a university degree.

Individual response:

There had been no change in providing education for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon but only limited to UNRWA. Additionally, Palestinians are excluded from the Refugee Convention which increased of school drop outs had increased due to the absence of just labour laws for Palestinians specially among woman and girls in higher education. The aforementioned violates Articles 22, 25, 26 from the International Convention of Human Rights- Article 22 from the Refugee Convention- Articles 12, 13 from the International Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights- Articles 3, 24, 28 from the Convention of the Rights of Child.

DAWB response:

a. Access to education

The public expenditure on education in Lebanon continues to drop from 2% in 2008 to 1.6% in 2011 , which is less than the half of what other Arab countries spend on education. This adds to the disparity in the quality of public and private education and creates more inequality of enjoyment of the right to education. In this regard, and as the national plan of education aims to address deficiencies in the quality of the educational system, the low quality of education in governmental schools leads to de facto discrimination against students who are unable to afford private schools.

An approximate of 40% of the Syrian Refugees populations is in school age, at the time that the Lebanese government set a target of enrolling only 60% of them in governmental schools. The UNHCR noted that 30,000 of refugee children at school age out of an estimated number of 120,000 children are enrolled in public schools for



the current academic year. It is estimated that another 10,000 children are involved in special education programs.

Moreover, the national strategy for early childhood is still absent, and the intent to rise the age of compulsory free education to 15 years old is still not yet translated into action.

In this frame we call the Lebanese State to:

- Improve the quality of formal education especially in rural areas, develop a new unified curriculum, introduce the dropout prevention program and adapt the school environment to the basic needs of children and in particular the needs of children with disabilities .
- Focus on increasing school enrollment, reduce drop out of education and re-insert the dropouts, give incentive bonuses for teachers to serve in poor areas, establish continuing education programs for teachers, maintain and expand the existing educational infrastructure.
- Adopt a national strategy to modernize the education curriculum and rebuild it according to a gendered approach as the current educational curricula reflects stereotypes, reduce girls dropping out due to early marriage and the cost of higher education and its impact on their opportunities to pursue their education especially in rural areas.
- Ensure that the strategy of education in Lebanon (Lebanese Ministry of Education and the Department of Education in UNRWA) include the enrollment of Syrian and Palestinian refugees from Syria children in schools and they fully enjoy their right to education and strengthen the infrastructure of public schools and UNRWA schools to host more children.

[...]

Recommendation n°83: Continue to call on the international community and donor countries to finance projects such as the initiative launched by the Government in 2006 to improve the lives of the Palestinian refugees and the living conditions in camps, and similar initiatives to ensure a life in dignity for Palestinian refugees until the time of their return to their Palestinian homeland, in cooperation with the international community (Recommended by Sudan)

IRI: *fully implemented*

Joint response:

This section of the report discusses the human rights situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and the Lebanese state's compliance with its obligations in the light of the first UPR revision. Given that Lebanon rejected vast majority of recommendations related to human rights conditions of Palestinians, the revision outcome was rather limited for protection and promotion of Palestinians rights in Lebanon. It should be clearly noted that the recommendations were rejected, despite being recommendations applicable for Lebanon under its obligations to international law of human rights including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on civil and political rights.



Since the revision, an important development that occurred in Lebanon, namely the launch of National Plan for Human Rights is crucial with regard to the human rights situation of Palestinians. The launch of the National Plan for Human Rights in Lebanon (2012-2017) on 10 December / December 2012 was completed in response to the Vienna Declaration in 1993, which recommended that each State consider the formulation of a national action plan showing the steps that improve the state under which the promotion of human rights. The National Plan with a dedicated section on the rights of Palestinian refugees states that "the protection of Palestinian refugees is a shared responsibility between the host countries and the international community organizations concerned". In this regard the National Plan bears Lebanon as the primary responsible for providing protection to the Palestinian refugees residing on its territory. This requires the harmonization of the Lebanese legislation with international standards and the establishment of a special legal status of Palestinian refugees resident and registered in Lebanon.

With regard to the right to work of Palestine refugees, a law implementing amendments to the Labor Law (of August 2010) was signed, in order to grant certain rights to Palestine refugees registered and residing in Lebanon, including the issuance, free of charge, of work permits and the provision of end of service benefits through the Lebanese Social Security Fund. Taking into consideration that 56% of the Palestinian refugees of working age are jobless (among them, 83.3% are female and 16.6% male), this is a positive achievement but relevant measures are lacking to immediately ensure the genuine implementation of this legal amendment and in relation "to improve the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian refugees" as stated in Action Plan. Besides, this legislation does not address the fact that Palestinian refugees remain barred from practicing in over 30 syndicated professions. Nevertheless it is important to note that, on 2012, a positive step was taken by the nurses syndicate by accepting that Palestinian nurses-that have a work permit- can be members in the syndicate.

With regard to social security, it is important to note that while the Palestinians should pay 23.5% for the Social Security fund, they can only benefit from 8%. This whereas creates violations for their enjoyment of the right, is a reason that many employers continue not to accept to register Palestinians in the social security fund.

Individual response:

Lebanon is still requesting international financial and technical support from donor countries. The contributions are decreasing and providing very short term solutions and services.

DAWB response:

During March 2012, the Lebanese Prime Ministry prepared a plan of action constituted of seven points for social and economic reform. The plan of action included: (1) public debt management and fiscal reform, (2) stimulating the private sector, (3) strengthening the infrastructure, (4) human development, (5) development of regional and rural areas, (6) institutional and administrative reform and (7) other supportive factors. All stakeholders shall be involved in the reform process, including civil society and the private sector to ensure the success of the reform process, so



that they have the chance to contribute to the restructuring of the economic and financial systems and in the adoption of new policies for social development, for the promotion of human rights and to ensure social justice.

Poverty remains a major challenge in Lebanon, a percentage of 28.5% are poor, 8% are living in extreme poverty (as per the report of the United Nations Development Program). 83% of the Lebanese population believes that eradicating poverty is the government responsibility, 48% believes that the programs are not effective at all. 84% noted that these programs should serve the poor in general instead of focusing on specific groups such as widows and orphans. However the government approach is still limited and base on the narrow definition of poverty with a focus on particular categories, and seeks to help them directly through in-kind donations and financial services without addressing the root causes of poverty.

In this frame, the Lebanese government has been accomplishing progress aiming to strengthen social programs and anti-poverty measures:

In October 2011, Lebanon launched a national program aiming to support the poorest households. By February 2013, 65,000 families applied to this program, 45,000 families were accepted in the first phase. By 2013, 18,500 families have been receiving additional benefits. The program aims to support these families through providing them free hospitalization, primary health care, medicine, and the poorest households were exempted from tuition fees, they were provided free registration and textbooks for their children in public schools. The program includes various initiatives, such as cutting 20,000 LBP (13 USD) from their electricity bill, providing the elderly a ration every three months. By 2013, a new initiative started, the new initiative is known as "Hala card ", this card enables the beneficiaries to obtain health coverage in 30 public hospitals and 44 private hospitals; it covers the cost of medicine for chronic diseases. The card also provides free registration and textbooks for students in public schools.

This program supports the Lebanese government in drawing the map for the poor families and to establish a data base for the populations living in poverty, however this program is limited and requires following a new approach with a focus on designing a comprehensive long term social plan which addresses the root causes of poverty, and this is still a critical issue in Lebanon. The national report presented in UN conference for sustainable development "RIO 20+", indicates that the Lebanese civil community point out that poverty cannot be addressed through targeting specific community segments, besides improving poor families' income won't cease poverty through the coming generation. The most convenient way to address poverty is decrease the social and economic burdens through providing basic services with good quality for reasonable prices, including the provision of pure water, transportation, power, housing, health care, education and free education. In this frame, it shall be pointed that granting public services including education and health care equally for all citizens is the state responsibility that should have long term comprehensive plans, instead of having short term projects funded through financial allocations.



During October 2011, the Minister of Social Affairs adopted a new policy providing for the support of people with disabilities to obtain housing loans, in which 48,000 of disability card holders became eligible for obtaining a housing loan which ensures equality among all the Lebanese citizens. However the civil society organizations shed the spot light on the lack of effective implementation of law in a way that ensures progress and equality with respect to the rights of persons with disabilities.

The Lebanese budget for 2012 increased VAT to 12 % instead of 10%, as well as increasing the taxes on the interests paid for bank deposits to 8 % instead of 5%. But studies reveal that "increasing the tax rate would have a significant adverse impact on the welfare of the middle class and on the families living above the poverty line. People living in poverty in Lebanon are currently estimated to an approximate of 30 % of the population, and it may increase to 35% and even to 50%, if the VAT reached 12% and 15 % ". The consistent increase in the value - added tax with the commitments made under the reform agenda known as the " Paris 3 " , will bring further negative effects on the living conditions of the poor population in Lebanon.

In this frame we call the Lebanese State to:

- Depend a new comprehensive approach that eradicates poverty and address its root causes
- Establish a separate database about poverty in Lebanon with detailed figures besides sustaining and updating this data
- Reconsider the tax policy in Lebanon in order to avoid its negative impacts, as well as reconsidering the commitments made in the framework of the "Paris 3" through processing national dialogue and adopting rights-based policies.

Recommendation n°120: *Grant Palestinian refugees the freedom of movement and in particular facilitate the free entry into and exit from Nahr el Bared camp* (Recommended by Norway)

IRI: *not implemented*

Individual response:

In light of the [instability] in Lebanon, Palestinians (Nahr El Bared and Ein El Helwe specifically) are seldom granted the permission of mobility and free movement outside the camp.

Recommendation n°142: *Take further measures to improve the working possibilities and working conditions of the Palestinian refugees* (Recommended by Finland)

IRI: -

Joint response:

According to the Socio Economic Survey of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon published by the American University of Beirut (December 2010), there remain several challenges with regard to ensuring economic and social rights to Palestinian refugees, including, as noted in the report: "As for higher education, only 13% of refugees older than 18 have the Baccalaureate or higher, compared to 17% for the Lebanese population."

"An extreme poverty threshold of US\$ 2.17 allows purchasing enough food to satisfy the daily basic food needs of an adult Palestine refugee. 6.6% of Palestine refugees



spend less than the monetary equivalent necessary to cover their basic daily food needs. This amounts to 16,000 individuals. The extreme poverty rate in camps (7.9%) is almost twice of that observed in gatherings (4.2%). The high poverty rate reflects overall low income, as proxied by expenditure, among Palestine Refugees. [...]

DAWB response:

During the 1st review session conducted on 2010, the right to work in Lebanon has been addressed, mainly in relation to child labor, the Palestinian refugees and domestic workers. However, lacking a comprehensive work policy that supports the productive sector which generates jobs is the fundamental challenge that hinders full realization of this right. In fact, the World Bank report indicates that Lebanon needs to generate annually about 20,000 additional job opportunities over the next decade, transform its economy into a productive model and reform social protection.

Despite that the economic policies implemented in Lebanon generated growth; it did not necessarily contribute to creating new job opportunities, which indicates a problematic in the sectors applied in the rentier economy. The report said that GDP grew between 1997 and 2009 at an average annual rate of 3.7%, while employment grew by only 1.1%.

According to labor statistics issued by the Central Administration of Statistics in 2011, unemployment rates among highly skilled people in Lebanon is increasing, 9% among those who have already obtained a university degrees are unemployed and 8% among persons with secondary level of education are also unemployed. Excluding those who did not pursue their official education, the unemployment rate was higher for women than for men, regardless of the education level achieved, it was estimated to slightly more than 14%. The unemployment rate was high especially for women with secondary education.

Due to the fact that registered Syrian refugees can live and work in Lebanon, their integration in the Lebanese economic cycle was easy as much as they can find a job opportunity. But at the same time, this led to more challenges, as the competition for labor among the Lebanese and the refugees from Syria has increased the rates of unemployment and poverty in the hosting areas. This is reflected negatively on the lives of marginalized groups within these areas, especially children, people with disabilities and women. Apart from abusing refugee workers who are paid low wages, they caused the exchange of a lot of workers which created malice and hatred of the hosting community toward the refugees. However the refugee workers are neither respected nor protected as their wages are not being paid regularly and they lack decent working conditions, especially those who are unregistered at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. [...]



Recommendation n°143: *Strengthen efforts to assist Palestinians living in Lebanon who are lacking identity documents so that it will be possible for them to live a decent life* (Recommended by *Palestine*)

IRI: *not implemented*

Individual response:

There are approximately 6000 Palestinians who are not registered at the Lebanese government, in addition to 35'000 are not registered at UNRWA, and another 30'000 coercively removed from UNRWA files because they acquired another nationality, usually called "Secret Tip" from Lebanese government institutions to UNRWA. Also, Lebanese woman are denied to give their Palestinian husband the Lebanese nationality; and Palestinian women married to Lebanese men can only obtain the Lebanese nationality in case they bore children. These issues deny the Palestinians from benefiting from social and public services, and affects their ability to move and integrate within the Lebanese society. The aforementioned violates Article 15 from the International Declaration of Human Rights - Article 24 from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - Article 2 from the International Convention on Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid - The Arab League Protocol of Casablanca (September 1965).

International Instruments

Recommendation n°1: *Consider becoming a party to the human rights instruments it has not yet ratified* (Recommended by *Cote d'Ivoire*)

IRI: *not implemented*

Act for Human Rights + IKV Pax Christi International (ALEF) response:

Since 2010, the Lebanese Government has failed to become a member of additional human rights instruments.

Joint response:

Since 2010, Lebanon did not accede to any international human rights instruments.

FRA response:

Not implemented - did not ratify conventions related to statelessness or refugees

DAWB response:

[...]

Recommendation n°2: *Consider ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (Recommended by *Mexico*)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°3: *Consider ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (Recommended by *Turkey*)

IRI: *not implemented*

+



Recommendation n°4: *Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (Recommended by *Algeria*)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°5: *Expedite the necessary process to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and step up its efforts to address specific needs of persons with disabilities* (Recommended by *Thailand*)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°6: *Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, signed in 2007* (Recommended by *Spain*)

IRI: *not implemented*

ALEF response:

Although the Lebanese Government has signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, however the Lebanese parliament has not yet ratified the convention.

Lebanese Disabled People's Organizations + Youth Association of the Blind + Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network (LDPO) response:

Although the Lebanese government signed the UN convention on the rights of PWD and its protocol in 2007, and presented it to the parliament to ratify it, and despite of including the ratification of the UN convention on the rights of PWD (2006) and applying the law 220/2000 for the rights of PWD in Lebanon in the two ministerial statements for the present and the previous government; and despite of the declaration of the Prime Minister for the present government in March 2013, that the current year shall be the year for the rights of PWD promising a positive change in this concern, however, none of this was implemented. The parliament did not ratify the convention until today despite of all the follow up with the concerned ministers in the previous and present governments and deputies in the parliament. [...]

Joint response:

There has been no progress on the accepted recommendation to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The treaty, being signed in 2007 still is waiting the ratification to enter into force. This is as well despite to ministerial statements, which included specific reference rights of persons with disabilities and calling for the ratification of the Convention. [...]

DAWB response:

[...]

Recommendation n°87: *Accede to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and to its additional Protocol, and ensure that these instruments are implemented at the national level* (Recommended by *Belgium*)

IRI: *not implemented*

UNHCR response:

The Government of Lebanon has not indicated any further interest in acceding to the 1951 Convention at this time and in the absence of a consensus cabinet. Current



efforts with the Government in this regard focus on establishing an administrative framework to address matters of asylum

Recommendation n°88: *Withdraw all reservations to CEDAW which undermine the compliance of its obligations or the purpose of the treaty* (Recommended by Spain)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°89: *Consider lifting its reservations to CEDAW* (Recommended by Norway)

IRI: *not implemented*

Individual response:

The Lebanese government refuses to withdraw reservations from CEDAW specifically because of the laws on marital rape, the right of women to give nationality to their children and partner, civil and personal status code, LBTQ (Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender/sexual and Queer) women; as all the aforementioned are either denied by the Church or Dar Al-Fatwa and their conservative parliamentarians who support them.

Recommendation n°93: *Abolish the death penalty and consider the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR* (Recommended by Belgium)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°94: *Abolish the death penalty by adopting, promptly, the draft law on the abolition of the death penalty, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR* (Recommended by United Kingdom)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°95: *Accede to the Second optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at abolishing the death penalty, and take the necessary steps to remove the death penalty from Lebanon's justice system* (Recommended by Australia)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°99: *Adopt officially General Assembly resolution 62-149 on a moratorium on the death penalty and ratify the second optional protocol to ICCPR, as important steps towards abolishing capital punishment* (Recommended by Italy)

IRI: *not implemented*

ALEF response:

Lebanon has not yet issued an official moratorium on executions; several court sentences have requested the death penalty. An unofficial de facto moratorium is being implemented. Socio-cultural discourse in addition to political and popular influences the abolition of death penalty is by far not on the agenda of decision makers. Main convicted to the death penalty are indicted of crimes falling under spying and collaboration with Israel to crimes of acts of terrorism all decreasing the mobilization of legislators and decision makers toward the abolition of death penalty or issuing an official moratorium on the death penalty.



Individual response:

There are around 60 prisoners sentenced for death penalty Lebanon today, but the last time that the sentence was actually carried out was in 2004 for aggravated murder. The mandatory death penalty for some offenses was legislatively repealed in 2001, however, it still applies for aggravated murder, terrorism, treason and collaboration with the enemy.

Recommendation n^o101: *Continue the reforms already accomplished by withdrawing the reservation to article 22 of the Convention against Torture (Recommended by France)*

IRI: *not implemented*

Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture (RESTART) response:

There is no willingness, as expressed by the rejection of this recommendation by Lebanon, to withdraw the reservation to art.22 of the CAT.

Justice

Recommendation n^o15: *Continue its efforts in addressing the problem of missing person (Recommended by Greece)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

ALEF response:

The Lebanese government appointed MP Ogassapian to chair a committee to negotiate the issue of missing persons and victims of enforced disappearance with the Syrian authorities, the committee has not yet reached any outcome so far. The latter committee was established in early 2010 as a main negotiating committee with the Syrian government on a number of issues including enforced disappeared and the Lebanon-Syrian border. This same committee have asked families of the missing to provide essential documentation in order to facilitate solving the problem. Mr. Ogassapian met on a number of occasions the Syrian government officials in addition to human rights experts in Geneva. Mr. Ogassapian rejected the idea of establishing a DNA database considering the database as an issue with high sensitivity.

The active role of the NGOs and Civil Society Organizations working on that issue, especially organizations organized by the families of the missing persons, have been able to create a draft law addressing the issue of the disappeared and the missing. In 2012, the Minister of Justice Mr. Qortbawi has met with NGOs aiming at the creation of a National Commission addressing the issue of the missing persons, due to legal flaws and the escalation of the political problems in the country the Minister and the Civil Society failed to achieve any of these developments. The governmental committee chaired by Mr. Ogassapian, the review of the draft law by parliamentarians presented by the NGOs and the initiatives of the Minister of Justice were very peripheral in addressing the crime of enforced disappearance.



Recommendation n°16: *Enact domestic legislation to incorporate the Convention against Torture into Lebanese law* (Recommended by Ireland)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°17: *Amend the relevant legislation to bring the definition of torture in line with the Convention against Torture* (Recommended by Netherlands)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°18: *Incorporate the provisions of the UN Convention against Torture into domestic laws, by inter alia reviewing the definition of torture* (Recommended by Germany)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°19: *Legislate stricter sentences for the act of torture and ill-treatment* (Recommended by Germany)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°20: *Criminalise all forms of torture and ill-treatment* (Recommended by Netherlands)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°22: *Amend the Penal Code to criminalize all forms of torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment comprised in the Convention against Torture* (Recommended by Belgium)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°56: *Take all necessary measures to stop acts of torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment* (Recommended by Belgium)

IRI: *not implemented*

ALEF response:

Since the UPR sessions parliamentarians have addressed the issue of torture, most importantly amending the legal definition of Torture to be in line with Article 1 of the UNCAT, in addition to the criminalization of Torture. Several meetings were held at the Lebanese Parliament between parliamentarians, representatives of the ministry of justice, representatives of security agencies with the presence of several NGO representatives working on that issue and representatives of the Beirut Bar Association. The meetings also attended by representatives of the OHCHR allowed the parliamentarians to draft a law amending a series of local legislations.

The draft law mainly criminalizes torture, defines torture in line with the UNCAT, and provide compensation for victims. The draft still contains many gaps and flaws most importantly it does not address the problem of non-refoulement, nor provides rehabilitation or effective remedies for the victims. The draft law is currently being reviewed by the Administration and Justice Committee at the Lebanese Parliament, according to news reports representatives of the security agencies are attending the meetings pushing for certain amendments. The same committee is also discussing with the ministry of justice the ability to define ill treatment and inhuman and



degrading treatment with the help of UN documents and General Comments of the CAT.

RESTART response:

After the UPR session in 2010 many meetings including parliamentarians, representatives of the ministry of justice, of law enforcement officials, the Beirut Bar Association and the civil society have been organized by the Regional Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to discuss the criminalization of torture. The draft law that was prepared aimed at amending a series of provisions within the penal code to define torture according to art.1 of the UNCAT, to criminalize it and to increment penalties for those responsible of such acts. The last meetings held in the parliament were closed to the civil society who did not have the chance to see and comment on the last draft which is currently been reviewed by the Parliamentary Administration and Justice Committee. The latter is also discussing how to define ill-treatment and inhuman and degrading treatment.

FRA response:

Not implemented. No related law was passed

Individual response:

According to Human Rights Watch Report on Torture in Lebanon (June 2013), Lebanese police are torturing vulnerable people being held in custody, including drug users, sex workers and homosexuals. Detainees described being denied food, water and medication as well as phone calls to family members and access to legal representation. Women, particularly those accused of prostitution, reported a range of sexual abuse, including rape.

The existing mechanisms intended to prevent such abuse were failing detainees, noting that in some prisons where cameras are installed, police officers would simply move detainees out of the camera's line-of-sight before physically and verbally assaulting them. The Internal Security Forces' human rights committee is understaffed and has no real power; adding that the judiciary "regularly ignores" complaints about police abuse.

NGOs urged Lebanon to uphold the Convention against Torture and create an independent body to monitor detention centers. It also called on the government to "revise its Code of Criminal Procedure to better safeguard the rights of detainees and repeal laws criminalizing homosexuality, drug use and sex work."

Recommendation n°21: *Expediently amend its Penal Code to criminalise all forms of torture and illtreatment and ensure that all allegations for such violations are credibly and promptly investigated and those responsible are brought to justice in accordance to international fair trial standards (Recommended by Slovakia)*

IRI: not implemented

+



Recommendation n°23: *Continue its efforts to prevent and properly criminalize torture and illtreatment by state agents, investigate, appropriately prosecute and punish those responsible, and compensate the victims* (Recommended by Spain)

IRI: *not implemented*

ALEF response:

[See response to recommendation n° 16]

RESTART response:

[See response to recommendation n° 16]

FRA response:

Not implemented. Perpetrators of torture and ill treatment enjoy impunity and are not prosecuted neither by the state nor by the victims

Recommendation n°24: *Establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture, to which it committed itself by signing the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture in 2008* (Recommended by Canada)

IRI: *not implemented*

RESTART response:

Since 2011 several meetings gathering relevant representatives of the government, civil society and security officials and coordinated by the Regional Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights have been held to discuss the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI). A draft law on the NHRI with an enlarged mandate covering the creation of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) according to the OPCAT was under discussion. Lebanon has ratified the OPCAT in 2008 and therefore it has a 4-year delay in the creation of a National Preventive Mechanism.

According to the MP who has been leading the process of the drafting, there are minor changes to this draft which has currently been presented to the Parliament waiting to be reviewed and ratified. The draft has been incorporated within the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP). The NHRAP was presented to the Parliament by the Human Rights Parliamentary Committee in December 2013 but, as mentioned above, it has been changed in order to incorporate the NHRI/NPM and has not yet been implemented. NGOs have not seen yet either the NHRI/NPM final draft or the NHRAP to be able to agree on it or comment back.

FRA response:

Not implemented. Perpetrators of torture and ill treatment enjoy impunity and are not prosecuted neither by the state nor by the victims

Recommendation n°25: *Establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture, in line with the Optional Protocol to CAT* (Recommended by Belgium)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°57: *Accelerate the establishment of an independent national mechanism to visit prisons* (Recommended by France)

IRI: *not implemented*

ALEF response:

The Lebanese Government has accepted this recommendation calling for the establishment of NHRI in accordance to Paris Principles, however until today Lebanese legislators and the Lebanese Government have failed to establish any. Legislators following meetings with civil society organizations throughout 2010-2012 have been able to present to the Lebanese Parliament a draft law establishing an NHRI containing a National Prevention Mechanism (NPM).

RESTART response:

[See response to recommendation n° 24]

FRA response:

Not implemented. the project law of the NPM has not been finalized/submitted to the parliament general assembly, hence the mechanism is not established yet

Recommendation n°90: *Introduce a de jure moratorium on executions until the government abolishes the death penalty* (Recommended by *Belgium*)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°91: *Deepen the process to abolish the death penalty by implementing a de jure moratorium on the use of death penalty and subsequently by abolishing it permanently* (Recommended by *France*)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°92: *Impose a moratorium on capital punishment and commute existing death sentences to imprisonment terms with a view to abolish the capital punishment entirely* (Recommended by *Slovakia*)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°96: *Adopt, as soon as possible, the bill to abolish the death penalty, meanwhile maintain the current de facto moratorium and introduce a de jure moratorium until the permanent abolition of the death penalty goes into effect* (Recommended by *Spain*)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°97: *Proceed to abolish the death penalty from its penal code* (Recommended by *Ireland*)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°98: *Eliminate the death penalty from its national legislation* (Recommended by *Canada*)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°100: *Abolish the death penalty* (Recommended by *Germany*)

IRI: not implemented

ALEF response:

Lebanon has not yet issued an official moratorium on executions; several court sentences have requested the death penalty. An unofficial de facto moratorium is



being implemented. Socio-cultural discourse in addition to political and popular influences the abolition of death penalty is by far not on the agenda of decision makers. Main convicted to the death penalty are indicted of crimes falling under spying and collaboration with Israel to crimes of acts of terrorism all decreasing the mobilization of legislators and decision makers toward the abolition of death penalty or issuing an official moratorium on the death penalty.

Individual response:

There are around 60 prisoners sentenced for death penalty Lebanon today, but the last time that the sentence was actually carried out was in 2004 for aggravated murder. The mandatory death penalty for some offenses was legislatively repealed in 2001, however, it still applies for aggravated murder, terrorism, treason and collaboration with the enemy.

SOGI

Recommendation n°111: *Decriminalise homosexuality and ensure non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity* (Recommended by Norway)

IRI: not implemented

Individual response:

Similar to the majority of the Lebanese penal code, article 534 criminalising homosexuality is still used to persecute homosexuals in Lebanon and punishing them with a fine between (300,000LBPs - 1,000,000LBPs / 200US\$ - 600US\$) and imprisonment between 3 months to 1 year. The law was put by France when it colonised Lebanon. The police raids and persecutions seem to be targeting gay men of lower economic statuses and foreign labour.

In addition, anal examinations were required, until the beginning of 2013 when 30 gay men were arrested in a porn movie theater in Bourj Hammoud (northern suburb of Beirut), where this incident caused a national debate between media channels, civil society, and the ministry of interior. The detainees were subjected to the routine check, including physical violence and anal examination (the detainee is obliged to pay the sum of 88\$US to be anal examined- not paid by the state), which according to the International Convention on Human Rights is a form of torture. The opposition of the police brutality lead to a demonstration at the ministry of justice. The syndicate and union of doctors released a statement opposing vaginal and anal examinations and recognising them as a medieval form of torture and scientifically inaccurate.

In addition, they announced that any doctor who conducts anal and vaginal examinations will be face consequences as it violates the principles of the syndicate. Due to the demands pushed on the ministry of justice and ministry of interior's police; the minister of justice "compromised" to have anal and vaginal examinations as "optional", however if the detainee refused to cooperate, it will be used against him/her in court. Once the case goes to the judicial system, it will be up for the judge to decide if he/she perceives homosexuality as a "unnatural sexual behaviour" or not-



as there had been cases of ruling that homosexuality does not classify as "unnatural sexual behaviour" (Batroun- Lebanon, 2012).

Since article 534 of the Lebanese penal code is not enough to always have a court case, the police usually associate it with cases of theft, drug use and sex work to add additional charges on the detainee. Article 534 violates Articles 2, 17, 18, 19, 26 from the International Declaration of Human Rights- Articles 2, 5 from the International Convention for Economic, Social and Political Rights- Articles 5, 11 from the Tehran Declaration that Lebanon signed and ratified- Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 from the International Conference for Human Rights- Articles 5, 17, 30 from the Arab Charter of Human Rights (after revision of 1994).

Helem (Helem) response:

[...]

In the past year, Helem with the efforts of Human Rights organization from the Lebanese civil society where able to bring a new media approach to coffer issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity and led to a huge success in repealing intrusive anal sex in police stations for people arrested under article 534. In Lebanon, article 534 stipulates that any unnatural intercourse is punishable by up to one year in prison. This law is still used today to criminalize homosexual intercourse. Helem is still working on decriminalizing homosexuality in Lebanon. Last year campaign led to repealing a form of torture (the anal tests) that were used to push individuals to admit having homosexual intercourses. By repealing this practice, new questions can be raised on article 534 and its consequences on legitimizing discrimination toward LGBTIQ in Lebanon on all levels: legal, social, in the workplace and other institutions

On the 3rd of December 2009 and in a landmark decision, Judge Mounir Suleiman from the Batroun court district ruled that consensual homosexual relations are not against nature and thus cannot be prosecuted under article 534 of the Penal Code in Lebanon. Other similar decisions in different countries around the world were also reported and lead to the decriminalization of homosexuality. We will mention the example of South Africa where strategic litigation was the way to decriminalize same sex intercourses. These decisions are the bases of Helem advocacy strategy in order to abolish article 534 and to work on a model defense for people who are persecuted under article 534. Based on this decision Helem is working on a booklet for model pleading on article 534. However, the advocacy work that Helem is leading in this field should be spread throughout the Lebanese juridical system.

In parallel, Helem is also expand its work on advocacy by reaching out to media and social media that proved to be a powerful and effective tool, as they were in the recent revolutions in the region. To this end, Helem will be working on a nation-wide campaign that includes a series of documentations and TV spots. The target of this campaign is to decrease homophobia/transphobia by educating people and fighting their prejudices against LGBT, especially those who believe that LGBT people are perverts and against nature. This will be a very essential tool especially that 2 local TV stations (MTV and OTV) recently campaigned that LGBT is something bad and it is curable. However, since we are already supported for our cause by 2 other leading



TV stations (LBCI and NewTV), and through the medium of social media, we will be able to reach a wide audience, especially in Lebanon, to raise awareness for sexual diversity and gender identity as part of internationally recognized Human Rights.

Additionally, Helem will be forming a coalition comprising of famous figures, including journalists, politicians, LGBT advisors and allies, as well as Human Rights Activists from 10 NGOs. We will be meeting quarterly with this coalition – who will take the role of an advisory board – in order to develop and execute a plan to fight homophobia, which will eventually lead to a nation-wide call to stop the application of Article 534. Helem has drafted a manual for lawyers on model defense for people arrested under article 534 for homosexual intercourses. The manual includes a training module designed for lawyers and judges on the model defense.

They are planning training for 20 lawyers on the model defense and the distribution of the manual to all single criminal judges and prosecutors in Lebanon (around 100 judges).

[...]

Women & Children

Recommendation n°28: *Adopt amendments to the Labour Code regarding the sale and trafficking of children* (Recommended by Poland)

IRI: -

+

Recommendation n°29: *Implement amendments to the Labour Code to strengthen legal measures to combat the sale and trafficking of children* (Recommended by Australia)

IRI: -

Joint response:

[...]

DAWB response:

[...]

b. Human trafficking

During August, the Lebanese Parliament passed a law against human trafficking that enhances legal protection for trafficking victims. The measure had been passed when the U.S. government lowered Lebanon to Level 3, which is the worst level after the submission of the Human Trafficking Report on 2011. The migrant workers, mostly from Syria and Egypt who work in construction and other handworks, indicated that they faced hazardous working conditions and that they were regular targets for robbery and violence.

The reform does not cover the following aspects so far:



- Ensuring that human trafficking victims are not criminalized as the law requires evidence to prove their innocence
- Ensuring the victim right to participate in the legal process, which would require the issuance of a residence permit
- Establishing the right to compensation without conditions, which currently depend on seizing the assets of convicted persons for human trafficking,
- The need for tougher tools to protect the victims' identity
- Creating particular treatment for victims under 18 years old
- The inclusion of prevention measures that should be taken by the government.

In this frame we call the Lebanese State to:

- Issue special laws and decrees to ensure appropriate protection and support for victims and for children victims in particular
- Conduct training workshops targeting lawyers and law enforcement officials
- Review the laws, regulations and policies to avoid conflict with the new law regarding human trafficking. For example, the Prostitution law and "The Artist VISA

[...]

Recommendation n°30: Consider the creation of additional national mechanisms to promote and protect human rights of vulnerable groups especially women, children, and people with disabilities (Recommended by Iran)

IRI: partially implemented

Joint response:

The National Plan of Action on Human rights prepared by the Parliament is important, especially that its approach to Women's rights is advanced, however, it is still not enough.

First of all, the plan recommended eliminating all the discriminatory provisions from the laws but without specifying it particularly, those of the Penal Code, the labor, social protection and personal status laws. This is related to the fact that there is an opposition to substantial reforms affecting women's rights, and to the fact that there are a lot of problematic issues on which there is no clear official position. Second, the plan did not mention the importance of reforming the Trade Code towards establishing equality in the domain of retail trade. The plan recommended the adoption of positive discriminatory measures like the Quota for women, but it was also important to specify the number of 30% of women in the lists and results. In this regard civil society organizations recommend the finalization of National Plan of Action taking into consideration the remarks mentioned below and the adoption of concrete mechanisms to help translating the Plan into strategies and policies.

Helem response:

Lebanon thus far has developed only one national machinery, the National Commission for Lebanese Women that is. However, NCLW in partnership with some women NGOs have developed the National Action Plan on end GBV. Moreover, gender focal points were assigned in each ministry. However, the only functional focal point in the field is the one appointed by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

ABAAD (ABAAD) response:

Lebanon thus far has developed only one national machinery, the National Commission for Lebanese Women [...]. However, NCLW in partnership with some women NGOs have developed the National Action Plan on end GBV. Moreover, gender focal points were assigned in each ministry. However, the only functional focal point in the field is the one appointed by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

DAWB response:

[...] The National Human Rights Action Plan addressed women rights in one of its chapters; it adopted a lot of the issues advocated by the civil society in this area. However, the civil society organizations still have some concerns regarding this plan. Firstly, the plan recommended the elimination of all provisions issued by the Court of Cassation and included in the Penal Code, the Labor Law, and the Law on Social Protection and in the Personal Status law; however these provisions were not determined in particular.

[...]

The government has also announced its goal that is fostering the role of the National Commission for Lebanese Women and the expansion of its entrusted mandate so that it can propose and implement national policies aimed at eliminating discrimination against women.

In May 2012, the National Commission for Lebanese Women launched a National Strategic decade for women in Lebanon (2011 - 2021). This strategy is considered a general reference document for official bodies and various civil society organizations that focus on human rights in general and women rights in particular, it is also considered a basis for a democratic and just society.

The document produced by the National Commission for Lebanese Women still need to be discussed and adopted by the Lebanese Council of Ministers. This document contains 12 items:

- Achieving full Lebanese citizenship in terms of rights and duties in various laws and fields on equal basis for both women and men.
- Promoting women's opportunities in the education field.
- Achieving gender equity regarding health protection in terms of health services and health care for women, including reproductive health services.
- Working for Anti - poverty among women and paying special attention to general anti - poverty.
- Promoting women participation in economic life.
- Achieving full equality between genders in all decision - making fields.
- Working against all kinds of violence that affect women in all fields.
- Eliminating social and cultural stereotypes women.
- Enhancing women contribution in environmental protection.
- Strengthening the capacity of institutions concerned in women issues at the national level, besides strengthening the partnership between the National



Commission for Women and the departments of public institutions and the civil society organizations.

- Protecting women during emergency and armed conflicts, wars and natural disasters.
- Working for social integration in all fields.

The civil society organizations finds that the practical tools to achieve the above mentioned targets are not available, and it doubt that political authorities would have sufficient will to implement this policy. Besides, it finds it necessary to issue a civil unified law for personal status not a unified law that “unites all Lebanese”

Reforming the law No. 180, 29 \ 8 \ 2011 is considered a significant achievement, as it provides for working women to take advantage of tax deductions for her husband and children as well as working men. However the law is still discriminating against women as it gives the working father compensation for his children despite living with the mother after getting divorced or separated as long as he pays to cover his children expenses.

[...]

Recommendation n°31: *Adopt the draft law on protection of women from domestic violence as soon as possible, and ensure its effective implementation (Recommended by Norway)*

IRI: *not implemented*

Helem response:

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ABAAD response:

The Lebanese Parliament committee endorsed the draft law on July 2013, aiming at protecting women from domestic violence. This draft law has to officially pass by the general parliamentary session. However, no sessions have been held since June 2013.

Recommendation n°32: *Pass legislation, namely the Family Violence Bill, to strengthen reporting on, and investigations of, incidents of family violence and increase protections for victims (Recommended by Australia)*

IRI: *not implemented*

ABAAD response:

There is no official plan to develop a Family Violence Bill in Lebanon. However, the previously mentioned draft law [(see response to recommendation n° 31)] to protect women from DV, encompasses articles that include the protection of whole family members.

Recommendation n°33: *Adopt and implement the bill for the protection of women against domestic violence, mentioned in its national report, in order to criminalize domestic violence, and implement concrete measures to punish the aggressors (Recommended by Mexico)*

IRI: *partially implemented*



Helem response:

Due to the efforts of women NGOs in Lebanon who have been advocating for the law for five year, the Lebanese Parliament committee's endorsed the draft law on July 2013, aiming at protecting women from domestic violence. The law would come under the penal code If passed by parliament under which cases are referred to a criminal court. Rather than personal status laws, which are ruled on by religious authorities.

Recommendation n°34: *Develop a comprehensive policy at the national level, consistent with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, with the view to achieving gender equality and to combat gender violence (Recommended by Spain)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

Joint response:

The government adopted in 2010, the draft law on the protection of women from family violence as presented by the National Coalition for Legalizing the Protection of Women from Family Violence, and transferred it to the Parliament in 2011. However, the government included an article (article 26) that gives priority to the personal status tribunals if there is any contradiction between the provisions of this law and those of the tribunals. This article weakens the law because the personal status tribunals in Lebanon are confessional: there is 18 confessions and 15 personal status laws. In late June 2011, both Dar al-Fatwa, the country's highest Sunni Muslim authority, and the Higher Shi'a Islamic Council, said that they oppose the draft bill.

On Monday July 22, 2013, the parliamentary joint committees in Lebanon approved the law to protect women from family violence , but under a new title: "The Bill for the Protection of Women and Family Members against Domestic Violence".

The National Coalition for Legalizing the Protection of Women from Family Violence welcomed this step, but expressed their concerns about the amendments that targeted the spirit, the content, and the object of the law. The law is awaiting adoption by the General Assembly and accordingly the National Coalition recommends the adoption of the law by the Parliament after:

- Providing protection measures specifically to women
- Eliminating the link between the child custody age according to the Personal Status laws and the protection of children, because the right to protection is absolute and should not vary according to the different religious laws.
- Criminalizing of the act of marital rape in itself, and not only its harmful consequences.

FRA response:

Not implemented. The proposal to amend the nationality law to allow women to pass the nationality on to their children was rejected by the special committee established to consider it, under "high national interests" pretext

ABAAD response:

There was no national policy developed to secure women's rights in Lebanon and end GBV. However, the only progress made at this level was the development of the National Action Plan to end GBV in 2012.

DAWB response:

[...] The National Human Rights Action Plan addressed women rights in one of its chapters; it adopted a lot of the issues advocated by the civil society in this area. However, the civil society organizations still have some concerns regarding this plan. Firstly, the plan recommended the elimination of all provisions issued by the Court of Cassation and included in the Penal Code, the Labor Law, and the Law on Social Protection and in the Personal Status law; however these provisions were not determined in particular.

Up to date, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has been facing several problems when it comes to applying its provisions. This can be referred to the Lebanese state reservations in relation to the fundamental articles of this Convention.

Regarding the right to nationality, Lebanese women cannot confer the Lebanese nationality to their non-Lebanese spouses and children. In addition, Lebanese women are oppressed by the articles relating to honor crimes, wages, social security and others. As for migrant domestic workers, women workers are exposed to abuse and violence, which terribly led to the increase of suicide rate in 2009.

In 2010, the Lebanese government adopted a bill providing for the protection of women from domestic violence, this bill was formed according to the National Alliance for Legislation to Protect Women from Domestic Violence. The bill was introduced to the Lebanese parliament in 2011. However, the government added the article No. 26, which provides for giving priority to personal status courts in case any conflict occurs between the provisions of the bill and the personal status laws and the rules of the jurisdiction of these courts.

This article weakens the provisions of the bill at the time that the personal status courts in Lebanon are sectarian based: There are 18 sects and 15 personal status laws forced in Lebanon. In late June 2011, t Dar Al-Fatwa (the highest religious authority) and the supreme Islamic Shiite Council announced refusing this bill.

On Monday, the 22nd of July 2013, the joint parliamentary committees in Lebanon ratified on the bill providing for women protection from domestic violence under the new title "Bill for the Protection of Women and other Family Members against Domestic Violence".

According to the bill version that has been ratified by parliamentary committees, in the Article 22 (formerly Article 26) there is a clear separation between the religious authorities and the criminal courts, this was considered a victory after months of advocacy. Despite the re-inclusion of the marital rape crime in the latest version, this is still not explicitly criminalized as a crime by itself; it is only criminalized if it result



disadvantage. Moreover, minors do not benefit from protection laws unless they are under custody age set forth in spiritual laws. This article might make women hesitate in reporting any abuse because they might not be able to protect their children when they file a request for a protection order.

The civil society organizations welcomed this bill, but they expressed some concerns regarding the amendments, their main comments are summarized as follows:
Measures should be specifically for women protection

Eliminate the link between the custody age provided in the personal status laws and children protection, as the right to protection is an absolute right and it is not acceptable to vary with religious laws.

Criminalize marital rapes regardless of causing a disadvantage or no. Accordingly, it should be moved to the Sexual Offenses chapter in the Lebanese Penal Code and not to Defenses to Violence Chapter.

The Bill for the Protection of Women and other Family Members against Domestic Violence is still not adopted by the Lebanese parliament. This bill provide for assigning an attorney general in each of the six governorates of Lebanon to receive complaints and investigate cases of violence.

Units specialized in domestic violence will be established within the local police stations in Lebanon to address these complaints. The bill provides also for the penalties that will be issued against violators, including fines, imprisonment and rehabilitation. Any individual who witness any domestic violence can file a grievance against violators as well as women can verify ill-treatment. This bill provides for women and their children to get a restraining order against the aggressor/defendant and the Attorney General in each governorate or court can activate the order within 48 hours.

Lebanon has achieved limited progress on the so-called honor crimes. In 2011, the Lebanese parliament adopted the amendments invalidating Article 562 of the Penal Code, which led to the commutation of sentences related to the so-called honor crimes. However, the Lebanese government's refusal to lift reservations off CEDAW prevents accomplishing real progress toward the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. The Lebanese state reject in particular the elimination of discrimination in personal status laws (i.e., providing for women and men have equal rights in terms of marriage, divorce and child custody) as well as rejecting the bill providing for Lebanese women right to confer the Lebanese nationality to their non-Lebanese spouses and children. Moreover, the Lebanese government instead of repealing the article stating the death for adultery in the Penal Code, it is considering amending this article and make the penalty equal for men and women. Besides, the National Action Plan has not been adopted nor implemented yet (including Article 522, which exonerates the criminal of rape of his crime if he marries the victim and other articles on abortion, prostitution and rape).



Through the successive statements issued by the Lebanese Council of Ministers, the Lebanese government announced its commitment to strengthening the role of women in public life, including women appointment in leadership positions, fulfilling its commitments and responding to the approved international recommendations (especially CEDAW). The government has also announced its aim to implement a national action plan to combat violence against women, This includes conducting parliamentary debates on the bill providing for the women protection from domestic violence, and introducing new bills and policies related to combating human trafficking for the purposes of sexual slavery and forced labor. The government has also announced its goal that is fostering the role of the National Commission for Lebanese Women and the expansion of its entrusted mandate so that it can propose and implement national policies aimed at eliminating discrimination against women. In May 2012, the National Commission for Lebanese Women launched a National Strategic decade for women in Lebanon (2011 - 2021). This strategy is considered a general reference document for official bodies and various civil society organizations that focus on human rights in general and women rights in particular, it is also considered a basis for a democratic and just society.

The document produced by the National Commission for Lebanese Women still need to be discussed and adopted by the Lebanese Council of Ministers. This document contains 12 items:

- Achieving full Lebanese citizenship in terms of rights and duties in various laws and fields on equal basis for both women and men.
- Promoting women's opportunities in the education field.
- Achieving gender equity regarding health protection in terms of health services and health care for women, including reproductive health services.
- Working for Anti - poverty among women and paying special attention to general anti - poverty.
- Promoting women participation in economic life.
- Achieving full equality between genders in all decision - making fields.
- Working against all kinds of violence that affect women in all fields.
- Eliminating social and cultural stereotypes women.
- Enhancing women contribution in environmental protection.
- Strengthening the capacity of institutions concerned in women issues at the national level, besides strengthening the partnership between the National Commission for Women and the departments of public institutions and the civil society organizations.
- Protecting women during emergency and armed conflicts, wars and natural disasters.
- Working for social integration in all fields.

The civil society organizations finds that the practical tools to achieve the above mentioned targets are not available, and it doubt that political authorities would have sufficient will to implement this policy. Besides, it finds it necessary to issue a civil unified law for personal status not a unified law that "unites all Lebanese"



Reforming the law No. 180, 29\8\2011 is considered a significant achievement, as it provides for working women to take advantage of tax deductions for her husband and children as well as working men. However the law is still discriminating against women as it gives the working father compensation for his children despite living with the mother after getting divorced or separated as long as he pays to cover his children expenses.

In this frame we call the Lebanese State to:

- Adopt the bill providing for women protection from domestic violence and consider the concerns of the civil society organizations with respect to the modifications done on the bill
- Lift the reservations off CEDAW, especially regarding the elimination of all forms of discriminations

Recommendation n°35: *Strengthen its efforts to eliminate discrimination against women in law and practice* (Recommended by Norway)

IRI: *partially implemented*

Joint response:

Lebanon has made limited progress on these recommendations. In 2011, the Parliament passed reforms nullifying article 562 of the Penal Code, which allowed for reduced sentences for so-called honor crimes. However, the Lebanese government's reluctance to lift the reservations on CEDAW hinders real progress towards elimination of discrimination against women. In particular, the Lebanese state refuses to eliminate discrimination in the personal status laws (i.e. ensure women and men have equal rights in terms of marriage, divorce and child custody), grant women the right to pass on their nationality to their husbands and children. In addition, there are several discriminatory statuses in the Penal Code, especially relating to adultery, rape, prostitution and abortion.

Civil Society Organizations recommend to:

- Eliminate all discriminatory measures against women that exist in the Constitution, laws and legislation in accordance with International Human rights Law, and develop laws that protect women from gender-based violence

FRA response:

Not implemented. The proposal to amend the nationality law to allow women to pass the nationality on to their children was rejected by the special committee established to consider it, under "high national interests" pretext

Helem response:

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ABAAD response:

Since 2008, Lebanon has made baby steps towards eliminating discrimination against women, and ensure legal protection. In 2011, Parliament passed an anti-trafficking law that would amend the Lebanese penal code and criminal procedures to specifically address the crime of trafficking in persons. In addition, the joint committees agreed to increase the paid maternity leave from 49 days till 70 days.



However, this still needs to pass by the general parliamentary sessions. Moreover, a draft law on gender quota was also under discussion in parliament in April 2013.

DAWB response:

[See response to recommendation n° 34]

Recommendation n°36: *Continue endowing its National Commission for Women Affairs with public policy making and decision making powers* (Recommended by Nicaragua)

IRI: *fully implemented*

Joint response:

In successive Council of Ministers' statements, the Lebanese government has stated its commitment to improving the role of women in the public sphere, including appointing women to leading positions and honoring Lebanon's international commitments and recommendations (particularly CEDAW). The government also stated its objective of implementing a National Action Plan to combat violence against women, including concluding the Parliamentary discussions on the draft Law to Protect Women from Family Violence and putting forward regulations and policies to combat trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor. The government also stated its objective of strengthening the role of the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) and expanding its mandate so that it can propose and implement national policies for the elimination of discrimination against women.

The NCLW launched in May 2012 its 10 year National Strategy for Women in Lebanon (2011-2021) which is a general reference document for the different government agencies and civil society organizations focusing on human rights, in general, and women's rights in Lebanon. The document contains 12 clauses on enhancing equality in different fields especially education, health, the fight against poverty, economic life, violence against women, citizenship, political participation, and the importance of considering the gender dimension in all fields. The NCLW document still needs to be discussed and approved by the Lebanese government, and it didn't state the importance of establishing a unified civil code for personal status and not a unified code that "unify all Lebanese".

Regarding, women's active participation in political life, the Lebanese government has made no effort to establish a quota to ensure a greater number of female candidates and a higher portion elected to Parliament. The percentage of elected women to the parliament decreased from 8.4 to 3.2%, and the last government didn't include a single woman.

Civil Society Organizations recommend to:

- Empowering and training women to participate in the decision making process
- Adopt a 30% quota in nominations and results
- Adopt the quota in a modern and fair elections law
- Provide concrete tools to implement the National Strategy, and the necessary political will to do that

ABAAD response:

[...]

Recommendation n°67: *Continue efforts for the advancement of women and their participation in public life, and fight violence against women* (Recommended by Algeria)

IRI: *partially implemented*Joint response:

[See response to recommendation n° 36]

Helem response:

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ABAAD response:

The only efforts in this respect [are] those of the civil society organizations to increase women's political participation and to fight against VAW. No official efforts have been deployed to make progress on these fronts.

DAWB response:

[See response to recommendation n° 34]

Recommendation n°68: *Continue efforts for the empowerment of women in society* (Recommended by Bahrain)

IRI: *partially implemented*

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Recommendation n°69: *Further pursue its efforts for the empowerment of women* (Recommended by Syria)

IRI: *partially implemented*Joint response:

Especially with regard to economic empowerment of women in Lebanon, there are significant challenges remaining as shown by the national statistics. According to CAS latest labor market statistics, around 79% of working women were employees (monthly paid employees or weekly, hourly or paid according to production) while, for males, only 55% were employees. Conversely, only 15% of working women were business owners or self-employed compared with 42% of working men. Moreover, according to CAS statistics, men are better off in terms of pay from work than women in all sectors.

Civil Society Organizations recommend to:

- Amend the Labor Code to ensure gender equality, and adopt further mechanisms that protect women's economic empowerment

ABAAD response:

No serious official efforts are done at the national level; However, some NGOs have put effort in women empowerment through capacity buildings, or awareness raisings, etc.

DAWB response:

[See response to recommendation n° 34]



Recommendation n°70: *Establish laws and cultivate processes and institutions to protect women's rights, foster women's political participation, and ensure equitable representation of their interests and concerns* (Recommended by United States)

IRI: *partially implemented*

Joint response:

[See response to recommendation n° 36]

DAWB response:

[See response to recommendation n° 34]

Recommendation n°71: *Exert further efforts to adopt the draft law submitted to parliament on full equality between women and men in the area of social insurance and tax law, the draft law on the lifting of restrictions on the assets of wives whose spouses are declared bankrupt, and the draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence* (Recommended by Sudan)

IRI: *partially implemented*

Joint response:

A progress was made by reforming the law number 180 on 29/8/2011, and allowing the working woman to benefit from tax reduction for her husband and children similar to working men. But the law is still discriminating against women, as it gives compensation for the employed father for his kids living with his abandoned or divorced wife if he is paying her an expense to raise the children. The parliament didn't sign until now the draft law on the lifting of restrictions on the assets of wives whose spouses are declared bankrupt despite the fact that Lebanon accepted this recommendation.

Civil Society organizations recommend to:

- Ensure equality between the father and the mother regarding benefiting from tax reduction

DAWB response:

[See response to recommendation n° 34]

Recommendation n°72: *Accelerate plans for the adoption and implementation of a national strategy for children* (Recommended by Egypt)

IRI: *fully implemented*

Joint response:

[...]

A specific strategy for children found working or living in streets produced by Ministry of Social Affairs in 2011. Beginning 2011, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) launched the National Child Helpline, a service that enables any child in Lebanon to seek assistance against any case of abuse or violence. In early 2012, MOSA established a committee of social workers. This committee will provide guidance to street children and help them plan their future.

A national strategy and Action Plan to combat the worst form of Child Labor in Lebanon (2013-2016) is being developed by the National Committee for combating



Child Labor headed by the Ministry of Labor and supported by ILO. The strategy/action plan will be shared with Child Protection in Emergencies Working Group (CPIEWG) members when finalized (June/July 2013) and taken into consideration when developing the CPIEWG .

Civil society groups recommend Lebanon to:

- Consider child labor as a social problem and in relation to poverty, drop-out rates, lack of education, poor legislative measures for prevention and adopt a comprehensive strategy to combat child labor
- Grant girls the necessary attention especially regarding early marriage as it is considered the main violation of a girl's rights.

ABAAD response:

National Action plan on protection of children from violence has been approved in 2013 by cabinet. Yet need to endorse its budgeting

DAWB response:

Lebanon has accomplished remarkable achievements since the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the 30th of October 1990. After the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the non-governmental organizations and civil community centers that used to provide services and child care during the war (1975-1990) kept on providing these services. The key national alliances such as the Lebanese Union for Child Welfare and other similar alliances contributed in including global trends relating to child rights in the local practices. The Supreme Council for Childhood was established within the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs in 1994, this was followed by establishing several governmental bodies concerned with child rights within the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities and the Ministry of Labor. These bodies supported the institutional framework to monitor child rights.

Besides the civil society organizations that work for and advocate child rights have been recently flourishing, they work for gradually mainstreaming the fundamental principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, such as the right to participation and the best interest of the child principles. However, this process is still weak and the child's best interest shall be included in the legislation, practices and in the national culture.

Lebanon has progressed in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, especially in regard to education, where primary school enrollment has almost become comprehensive and equal between males and females. However persecution in the field of education and other social services is still continuing in relation to the quality of these services and its fair distribution over all Lebanese territory. Therefore, we cannot entirely rely on the national development indicators as it does not reflect regional differences and the status of Palestinian refugees' children and other children refugees.

The CRC committee have concluded through its observations conducted in 2006, that some groups from within the Lebanese community are still suffering persecution,



these groups include children with disabilities, foreigners, refugees, children of asylum seekers, Palestinian children, children living below the poverty line, children who are in conflict with the law, children living in rural areas and other vulnerable groups . For example, developmental data indicates a decrease in the infant mortality rate in Lebanon , but the problem of child mortality still exist and dispersed unevenly across the Lebanese territories . This situation also applies to a number of indicators, such as education and quality health services.

Lebanon applies most of the terms of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other similar tools. Progress has been made in deficient areas, either through legislative amendments or through calling for amendments. Lebanon accomplished remarkable progress in the field of juvenile justice, education and protection of children from violence and abuse. However, this progress is still limited to certain sectors and largely depends on international non-governmental organizations and the United Nations financing due to the absence of a local action plan dealing with the rights of the child and the absence of budget allocated to support these rights. In spite of the convenient institutional framework and the large number of extensive experiences in applying the rights of the child, Lebanon still need to prepare a unified local action plan for children and should modify its legislation to respect the child best interest. Unfortunately, political instability keeps on impeding the progress, development and coverage of basic needs that would contribute to reduce the poverty rate and negatively affect large segments of children in Lebanon.

The general difficult economic conditions of the families affect the environment where Palestinian children grow up. The families consider child labor an important source to increase income, leading to outweigh the idea of looking for a job on the idea of pursuing education. The persecution and the continuous violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child against Palestinian children in Lebanon led to raise the level of frustration and despair which civil society organizations are working to ease.

Throughout a study conducted by the International Labor Organization and the University of Saint Joseph (Jesuit University) 1007 children working in North Lebanon and in the Beqa'a valley were interviewed, these children work in several industries including automotive manufacturing, carpentry and hospitality fields. The study revealed that 29.5% of working children in north and 36.5 % of working children in Beqa'a are below 14 years old and under the legal minimum age for employment. It revealed a strong correlation between child labor and poverty and education.

In North Lebanon, the proportion of people lying below the poverty line exceeds nine times the proportion of people living under it in the rest of the country. The percentage of working children in North exceeds six times the percentage of working children in the rest of the country. 22 % of the working children in the north and about 40 % working children in the Beqa'a lack reading and writing skills, despite the fact that in the Beqa'a Valley, the majority of illiterate children were enrolled in schools for at least two years.

In 2011, the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs launched a strategy special for children working or living on the street and placed the ministry national child helpline.



This helpline enables any child in Lebanon to request the assistance against any case of abuse or violence. In early 2012, the Ministry of Social Affairs established the Committee of Social Workers; this committee advises children in street and helps them plan for their future.

In February 2011, a bill was introduced to amend the labor law with a focus on child labor and on the following points:

- 1 – Prohibiting child labor in hazardous professions for children below 18 years old and limiting child labor for children between 15 and 18 years old in non-hazardous works.
- 2 - The minister of labor rather than the Council of Ministers shall issue a decree determining the professions that require workers to undergo regular medical checkups.
- 3 - It is not permissible to engage children in works that require carrying heavy weights which exceed the permitted weights determined by the Ministry of Labor.

In this frame we call the Lebanese State to:

- Consider the phenomenon of child labor as a social problem linked to poverty, dropout rates, lack of education, poor legislative measures that allow the adoption of a comprehensive strategy against child labor.
- Giving girls children the necessary attention, specifically in regard to early marriage which reflects the most prominent violation of the rights of the girl child.

Recommendation n°75: Continue efforts in connection with the integration of disabled children in formal education as far as possible, in accordance with an inclusive educational approach (Recommended by Qatar)

IRI: not implemented

LDPO response:

Although the law 220/2000 included the right of PWD in education and equal opportunities; and despite that the Ministry of Education has launched through a press conference a national strategic plan for inclusive education since a year and a half, however this strategic plan may not be executed without the approval of the cabinet and without allocating a budget to execute it. It was not presented to the cabinet since its launching and therefore the launching of the plan remains only as intentions. Thus, the public educational system in Lebanon is still unreachable for PWDs, and their right to education is limited due to having specialized and residential institutions which adopt isolation policy and funded by the Lebanese state. Nevertheless, the government decided to increase its support for these institutions which are not considered a part of the public educational system. However, no procedures were adopted to make the public educational system inclusive for students with disabilities. Thus, the official schools are incapable of receiving and teaching students with disabilities. This affirms the discrimination practiced by the government against PWDS and depriving them from having equal opportunity in education.

Joint response:

The integration of disabled children in formal education still lacks progress in the absence of a national political strategy for the integration of disabled children in



education. Thus, despite the guarantee of law 220/2000 section VII, dedicated to disabled persons right to education in all educational institutions, several obstacles remain in ensuring access to education, including:

- the absence of statistics, data and studies relating to persons with disabilities
- lack of availability of appropriate public and private schools with relevant infrastructure and environment persons with disabilities including visually, mentally or hearing impaired
- lack of adaptations of the curriculum in line with the needs of learners visually impaired, hearing impaired, or mentally, or associated resources.
- scarcity of personnel in education sector and public sector and appropriate training for them to deal with the needs of persons with disabilities.
- The continuation of challenges as buffer institutions continue to receive substantial financial allocations from the government, yet contribute to perpetuate the exclusion policy.

According to UNESCO 2010 Background Paper for Education for All, in Lebanon “majority of children with disabilities are in special care institutions, and private schools have a policy of automatically eliminating students with disabilities.”

With regard to institutional structure, the education committee at the National council on Disability remains not operational thus half the people who obtain a disability card are still uneducated.

The ministry of Education had however issued the “National Plan to integrate people with disabilities” aiming at equipping 5 schools to adapt to students with disabilities’ needs, and to train teachers. The decision number 27/m/2012 of the Ministry of Education established a special unit in the ministry to ensure the integration of students with disabilities in public schools. The rights of people with disabilities have been also incorporated in the Action Plan of the ministry aiming at improving the educational sector.

Civil society organizations recommend Lebanese government to:

- Adopt an inclusive educational strategy and integrate students with special needs into the mainstream educational system
- Establish a plan to equip all public and private school buildings with the necessary infrastructure to ensure people with disabilities can access the buildings and ensure that the budget of the Ministry of Education takes into consideration this equipment according to the 2012 National budget.
- Accommodate the educational curriculums with the needs of people with an intellectual disability and train the educational and administrative bodies on the rights and needs of students with disabilities and ensure the implementation of the “National Plan to integrate people with disabilities”

DAWB response:

[...]

d. Access to education for children with special needs

Regarding the integration of children with special needs in the formal education, no progress is achieved yet due to the absence of a national integration strategy for



children with disabilities in education. Despite the law 220/2000 that provides for the right of education for persons with disabilities in Part VII, there are many obstacles still hindering their ability to access education, these obstacles include:

- The absence of statistics, data and studies relating to persons with disabilities,
- Lack of public and private schools with infrastructure and environment equipped to host persons with disabilities, including visually or mentally or physically disabled
- The absence of modifications in the curriculum and the associated resources , to match the needs of learners with disabilities either visually or mentally or physically disabled
- Lack of sufficient staffing in the education sector and the public sector beside the absence of trainings aiming to enable staffs to deal with the needs of persons with disabilities
- Facing continuous challenges alongside the continuous receipt of substantial financial allocations from the government by the buffer institutions, which contributes to the perpetuation of an exclusion policy

[...]

Recommendation n°80: *Strengthen measures to fight child labour within the framework of the national strategy to combat child labour* (Recommended by Algeria)

IRI: *partially implemented*

+

Recommendation n°81: *Further pursue its efforts to combat child labour* (Recommended by Jordan)

IRI: *fully implemented*

+

Recommendation n°82: *Intensify efforts to combat child labour* (Recommended by United Arab Emirates)

IRI: *partially implemented*

Joint response:

International Labor Organization and Saint Joseph University (USJ) study – during which 1,007 working children in the north and the Bekaa, employed in a variety of industries including carpentry, automobile manufacture and hospitality, were interviewed – showed that 29.5 percent of working children in the north and 36.5 percent in the Bekaa were below 14, the legal minimum working age. Child labor is inextricably linked to poverty and education, the research showed. In the north, where a person is nine times more likely to be below the poverty line than in the rest of the country, children are also six times more likely to be employed in child labor. More than 33 percent of children in the workforce in the north and nearly 40 percent in the Bekaa could not read and write. This was despite the fact that, in the Bekaa, the majority of illiterate children had attended school for at least two years.

During 2009-2011 technical cooperation projects undertaken in needy areas in North Lebanon (Especially Tripoli and Akkar) and the Beqaa region (Balalbak and Hermel designing and testing pilot projects addressing child labour issues. (A holistic approach, including family economic empowerment, is necessary in projects dealing with child labour)



A specific strategy for children found working or living in streets produced by Ministry of Social Affairs in 2011. Beginning 2011, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) launched the National Child Helpline, a service that enables any child in Lebanon to seek assistance against any case of abuse or violence. In early 2012, MOSA established a committee of social workers. This committee will provide guidance to street children and help them plan their future.

A national strategy and Action Plan to combat the worst form of Child Labor in Lebanon (2013-2016) is being developed by the National Committee for combating Child Labor headed by the Ministry of Labor and supported by ILO. The strategy/action plan will be shared with Child Protection in Emergencies Working Group (CPIEWG) members when finalized (June/July 2013) and taken into consideration when developing the CPIEWG .

Civil society groups recommend Lebanon to:

- Consider child labor as a social problem and in relation to poverty, drop-out rates, lack of education, poor legislative measures for prevention and adopt a comprehensive strategy to combat child labor
- Grant girls the necessary attention especially regarding early marriage as it is considered the main violation of a girl's rights.

ABAAD response:

[National action plan] for protection of children from [violence against children] took this concern into consideration

DAWB response:

[...]

Recommendation n°105: *Amend the law on citizenship in such a way that ensures that all Lebanese women, regardless of the nationality of their husband, can pass on their citizenship to their children and husbands* (Recommended by Netherlands)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°106: *That the proposed draft law which would allow Lebanese women to pass on their nationality to their children and foreign spouses be adopted as soon as possible* (Recommended by Norway)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°107: *Enact legislation to grant Lebanese nationality to the spouses and children of Lebanese women* (Recommended by United Kingdom)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°108: *Amend its law on nationality to enable Lebanese women to confer their nationality to their children* (Recommended by Canada)

IRI: *not implemented*

UNHCR response:

A Ministerial Committee was charged with reviewing proposed amendments to the Lebanese nationality law - in particular whether women should be entitled to pass the



Lebanese nationality to their spouses and children. The current nationality law does not give men and women equal rights in this respect. This can lead to cases of statelessness arising in circumstances where children are not able to acquire the nationality from their fathers, for example if he is stateless.

On December 2012 the Ministerial Committee rejected proposed amendments to the nationality law. This decision was made public on 16 January 2013. The decision has been referred to the Prime Minister's office.

Individual response:

[...] Denied by the Parliament. Appeal in order and awaiting the new cabinet to be formed.

Recommendation n°109: *Amend personal status laws so as to further ensure women's rights, in particular with regard to marriage dissolution, child custody and inheritance* (Recommended by *Brazil*)

IRI: *not implemented*

Individual response:

Denied by the Parliament. A strong opposition by the church and Dar Al Fatwa to remove marital rape, domestic violence, child custody (..) from the law.

Recommendation n°141: *Bring domestic law into full compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child* (Recommended by *Poland*)

IRI: *partially implemented*

UNHCR response:

There is no universal birth registration in Lebanon, despite the fact that Lebanon is a signatory to the CRC, which requires the registration of the birth of every child and reaffirms a child's right to a nationality. Children born to unregistered parents are not entitled to have their births registered and Lebanese and registered parents who are considered of a foreign undetermined nationality who do not register their child within one year of birth may also face obstacles to birth registration. In addition, documentary requirements and other barriers can prevent other persons, such as Syrians, from registering their births.

Efforts are being made on information and awareness raising as well as some lightening of documentary requirements but more is needed to achieve universal birth registration.

ABAAD response:

Done partially in the new Family Violence Bill.



Other

Recommendation n°9: *Strengthen the institutional framework in the human rights area, including through the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles* (Recommended by Egypt)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°10: *Establish a national human rights commission accredited by the International Coordinating Committee* (Recommended by Algeria)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°11: *Establish a National Commission on Human Rights in accordance with the Paris Principles* (Recommended by Greece)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°12: *Establish a national human rights institution so as to promote human rights and address the many challenges mentioned by Lebanon in its national report* (Recommended by Sudan)

IRI: not implemented

ALEF response:

The Lebanese Government has accepted this recommendation calling for the establishment of NHRI in accordance to Paris Principles, however until today Lebanese legislators and the Lebanese Government have failed to establish any. Legislators following meetings with civil society organizations throughout 2010-2012 have been able to present to the Lebanese Parliament a draft law establishing an NHRI containing a National Prevention Mechanism (NPM).

RESTART response:

Since 2011 several meetings gathering relevant representatives of the government, civil society and security officials and coordinated by the Regional Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights have been held to discuss the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI). A draft law on the NHRI with an enlarged mandate covering the creation of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) according to the OPCAT was under discussion. Lebanon has ratified the OPCAT in 2008 and therefore it has a 4-year delay in the creation of a National Preventive Mechanism.

According to the MP who has been leading the process of the drafting, there are minor changes to this draft which has currently been presented to the Parliament waiting to be reviewed and ratified. The draft has been incorporated within the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP). The NHRAP was presented to the Parliament by the Human Rights Parliamentary Committee in December 2013 but, as mentioned above, it has been changed in order to incorporate the NHRI/NPM and has not yet been implemented. NGOs have not seen yet either the NHRI/NPM final draft or the NHRAP to be able to agree on it or comment back.

Joint response:

Although it is included in the National Action Plan for Human Rights, (launched 10 December 2012-see below-not finalized yet) Lebanon has not yet finalized the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in Lebanon. The draft law for the establishment of the NHRI in accordance with the Paris Principles was submitted to the Parliament in 2012, yet remained under study at the Law Commission and not adopted. It is important to note that several civil society groups participated in drafting process of this law.

The abovementioned bill includes as well the establishment a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM); the establishment of a permanent Committee for the Prevention of Torture, which will function as the Lebanese NPM. With regard to criminalization of torture, another draft law to criminalize torture in accordance with the CAT has been submitted to the parliament in December 2012, but not finalized.

Moreover, the government pledged to establish a national commission to investigate the fate of those Lebanese and other nationals who “disappeared” during and after the 1975-1990 Lebanese civil war. In October 2012, Justice Minister put forward a draft decree to the cabinet to establish the commission, which in turn formed a ministerial committee to examine the draft. [...] By February 2013, the final copy was submitted to the government by the Ministerial Committee but the Lebanese government resigned before examining it. Moreover, the State Council issued a decision regarding the decree, to the effect that for any such national commission to be established, it would require a parliamentary ratification, and not a ministerial decision. On the other hand, civil society organizations developed, through a two-year consultative process, a draft law that would set the legal and institutional framework for addressing in a most comprehensive manner this issue, while meeting international standards and best practices. This draft bill was presented to the members of the ministerial commission and Minister of Justice, as well as to Members of Parliament. Both government and parliament members have failed to initiate any serious discussion around the draft bill.

In January 2012, a Code of Conduct for Lebanon’s Internal Security Forces was adopted. The Code of Conduct sets out professional and ethical standards of behavior to guarantee respect for human rights and protection of public freedoms in accordance with Lebanon’s Constitution and its human rights obligations. It brings a roadmap of what is allowed and what is prohibited in line with international human rights treaties and conventions signed and ratified by Lebanon.

[...]

DAWB response:

[...] A bill was introduced to establish a national preventive mechanism and it got into the parliamentary process in Lebanon on the 3rd of November 2011. The bill provides for the establishment of a national body for human rights, which include a permanent committee working for "the prevention of torture" and as a preventive national mechanism.



On the 3rd of April 2013, the Administration and Justice Committee at the Lebanese parliament approved the bill providing for the establishment of a national body for Human Rights.

The bill, provided for establishing a national preventive mechanism and the permanent committee working for "the prevention of torture" would be working as the Lebanese national preventive mechanism. With respect to the criminalization of torture, another draft bill was introduced, according to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to the Lebanese Parliament in December 2012.

Moreover, the government pledged to create a national commission to investigate the fate of the Lebanese and non-Lebanese who "disappeared" during the civil war, Lebanon (1975 - 1990) and beyond. In October 2012, the Minister of Justice Chakib Qartbawi introduced a draft decree concerning the Commission establishment to the Council of Ministers, which in turn formed a ministerial committee to study the draft decree. By February 2013, the ministerial committee submitted the final version to the Government; however the Lebanese government resigned before studying it.

[...]

Recommendation n°13: Proceed with the establishment of a general directorate for human rights in the Ministry of Justice, on the basis of the draft law prepared for this purpose (Recommended by Saudi Arabia)

IRI: not implemented

ALEF response:

The Lebanese Government has yet failed to put in place a general directorate for human rights in the Ministry of Justice. The Lebanese government is still reluctant and lagging in adhering to human rights instruments and cooperate with UN human rights treaty mechanisms. The absence of any human rights general directorate clearly shows the unwillingness of the Government in promoting, and respecting human rights principles and obligations and the governmental level. However focal person at the Ministry of Justice is following up on the submission of the initial state report to the CAT. The latter committee has met with civil society organizations regarding the submission of the initial report, however the government has not yet submitted the report showing that the Lebanese government has not yet applied any development in the prevention of torture and is awaiting major developments in that issue to be included in the initial report.

RESTART response:

The General Directorate for Human Rights which should have been instituted with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has not been established yet, although different stakeholders among them lawyers and judges are working on human rights issues. In April 2013 the MoJ also appointed a judge to follow-up on the change of prison administration from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Justice and another judge as the inter-ministerial focal point to follow-up on delays in reporting to the UN treaty Monitoring Bodies.

DAWB response:

To date, none introduced a bill or a draft law providing for the establishment of the Directorate General for Human Rights in the Ministry of Justice, the only thing existing is the Human Rights Office in the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities within the framework of the Directorate General of Internal Security Forces.

In this frame we call the Lebanese State to:

- Establish a Directorate General for Human Rights within the Ministry of Justice
- Activate the role of the Human Rights Office at the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities to play a key role in building the skills and abilities of the members of the Directorate General of Internal Security Forces in the field of human rights.

Recommendation n°14: *Successfully implement the important initiative of the National Human Rights Action Plan (Recommended by Russian Federation)*

IRI: not implemented

ALEF response:

Following years of drafting and support by the OHCHR, UNDP and several civil society organizations Lebanese legislators have been able to present a draft law seeking the creation of an NHRAP.

However the draft law presented is not an action plan in structure it includes main principles and agenda items but does not include any plan of action for the implementation of its content. Additionally parliamentary committees and the general assembly have not yet prioritized the NHRAP or any other human rights policy.

RESTART response:

Since 2011 several meetings gathering relevant representatives of the government, civil society and security officials and coordinated by the Regional Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights have been held to discuss the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI). A draft law on the NHRI with an enlarged mandate covering the creation of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) according to the OPCAT was under discussion. Lebanon has ratified the OPCAT in 2008 and therefore it has a 4-year delay in the creation of a National Preventive Mechanism.

According to the MP who has been leading the process of the drafting, there are minor changes to this draft which has currently been presented to the Parliament waiting to be reviewed and ratified. The draft has been incorporated within the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP). The NHRAP was presented to the Parliament by the Human Rights Parliamentary Committee in December 2013 but, as mentioned above, it has been changed in order to incorporate the NHRI/NPM and has not yet been implemented. NGOs have not seen yet either the NHRI/NPM final draft or the NHRAP to be able to agree on it or comment back.

Joint response:

On the occasion of Human Rights Day, on December 10th 2012 Lebanese Parliament has launched the draft National Action Plan for Human Rights, which envisages the establishment of an independent national human rights committee.



However, this launch has not been followed by endorsement by the Parliament, thus waiting to be effective. Indeed, it is noted that the process of discussion, endorsement and dealing with legal technicalities by the relevant ministries will take until 2019. Thus the Action Plan remains as an initiative without further concrete steps taken.

FRA response:

Not implemented. National Human Rights Plan not yet discussed or approved by the parliament general assembly to start its implementation

DAWB response:

On the occasion of the International Day for Human Rights, on 10th of December 2012, the Lebanese Parliament launched the National Action Plan for Human Rights, which provides for the establishment of an independent national commission for human rights. However, this launching was not followed by the Parliament ratification; therefore it is awaiting activation.

In fact, it was noted that the discussion and adoption process and to deal with the legal formalities of the concerned ministries will take until 2019. In which the launching was sponsored by the Speaker of the Parliament of Lebanon Nabih Berri, represented by the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, Dr. Michel Moussa.

In this frame we call the Lebanese State to:

- Adopt the National Plan for Human Rights as a document representing the public policy providing for the respect and promotion of human rights and to be devoted to achieve the following:
 - A tool for assessing the national vision of the concept of human rights;
 - A tool for assessing performance against commitments and international standards;
 - Documentation of the public governmental performance regarding the promotion and protection of human rights;
 - A tool to identify the goals and priorities of human rights within the available operational capability;
 - A tool for planning and managing resources for the development of human rights;
 - A strategies statement and measurable objectives with respect to all things relating to the protection and development of human rights.

Recommendation n°47: *Take measures for the submission of overdue periodic reports under the treaties and covenants to which Lebanon has become a party (Recommended by Oman)*

IRI: not implemented

FRA response:

Not implemented. No overdue reports were submitted



Recommendation n°49: *Submit as soon as possible its initial report to CAT* (Recommended by *Belgium*)

IRI: *not implemented*

ALEF response:

[...]

RESTART response:

The initial report to the CAT has not been submitted yet. The inter-ministerial focal point appointed by the MoJ gathered the relevant information submitted by the different ministries regarding the report. The MoJ with inter-ministerial committee which is mainly composed by representatives of security agencies have organized a meeting to consult representatives of NGO, the Beirut Bar Association, the order of physicians on the drafting of the report.

FRA response:

Not implemented. No overdue reports were submitted

Recommendation n°53: *Continue efforts to strengthen human rights* (Recommended by *Tunisia*)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°54: *Continue its efforts to maintain the accomplishments already made in the field of human rights* (Recommended by *Bangladesh*)

IRI: *not implemented*

FRA response:

Not implemented. No policies or plans were elaborated to strengthen human rights. The National Human Rights Action Plan is not finalized yet.



Methodology

A. First contact

Although the methodology has to consider the specificities of each country, we applied the same procedure for data collection about all States:

1. We contacted the Permanent Mission to the UN either in Geneva (when it does exist) or New York;
2. We contacted all NGOs which took part in the process. Whenever NGOs were part of coalitions, each NGO was individually contacted;
3. The National Institution for Human Rights was contacted whenever one existed.
4. UN Agencies which sent information for the UPR were contacted.

We posted our requests to the States and NHRI, and sent emails to NGOs and UN Agencies.

The purpose of the UPR is to discuss issues and share concrete suggestions to improve human rights on the ground. Therefore, stakeholders whose objective is not to improve the human rights situation were not contacted, and those stakeholders' submissions were not taken into account.

However, since the UPR is meant to be a process which aims at sharing best practices among States and stakeholders, we take into account positive feedbacks from the latter.

B. Processing recommendations and voluntary pledges

Stakeholders we contact are encouraged to use an Excel sheet we provide which includes all recommendations received and voluntary pledges taken by the State reviewed.

Each submission is processed, whether the stakeholder has or has not used the Excel sheet. In the latter case, the submission is split up among recommendations we think it belongs to. Since such a task is more prone to misinterpretation, we strongly encourage stakeholders to use the Excel sheet.

If the stakeholder does not clearly mention neither that the recommendation was “fully implemented” nor that it was “not implemented”, UPR Info usually considers the recommendation as “partially implemented”, unless the implementation level is obvious.



UPR Info retains the right to edit comments that are considered not to directly address the recommendation in question, when comments are too lengthy or when comments are defamatory or inappropriate. While we do not mention the recommendations which were not addressed, they can be accessed unedited on the follow-up webpage.

C. Implementation Recommendation Index (IRI)

UPR Info developed an index showing the implementation level achieved by the State for both recommendations received and voluntary pledges taken at the UPR.

The **Implementation Recommendation Index (IRI)** is an individual recommendation index. Its purpose is to show an average of stakeholders' responses.

The *IRI* is meant to take into account stakeholders disputing the implementation of a recommendation. Whenever a stakeholder claims nothing has been implemented at all, the index score is 0. At the opposite, whenever a stakeholder claims a recommendation has been fully implemented, the *IRI* score is 1.

An average is calculated to fully reflect the many sources of information. If the State under Review claims that the recommendation has been fully implemented, and a stakeholder says it has been partially implemented, the score is 0.75.

Then the score is transformed into an implementation level, according to the table below:

Percentage:	Implementation level:
0 – 0.32	Not implemented
0.33 – 0.65	Partially implemented
0.66 – 1	Fully implemented

Example: On one side, a stakeholder comments on a recommendation requesting the establishment of a National Human Rights Institute (NHRI). On the other side, the State under review claims having partially set up the NHRI. As a result of this, the recommendation will be given an *IRI* score of 0.25, and thus the recommendation is considered as “not implemented”.

Disclaimer

The comments made by the authors (stakeholders) are theirs alone, and do not necessarily reflect the views, and opinions at UPR Info. Every attempt has been made to ensure that information provided on this page is accurate and not abusive. UPR Info cannot be held responsible for information provided in this document.

Uncommented recommendations

Hereby the recommendations which the MIA does not address:

rec. n°	Recommendation	SMR	Response	A	Issue
7	Ratify the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Diversity of the Cultural Expression	Armenia	Accepted	5	International instruments
8	Consider requesting the international community all necessary aid and assistance that will allow it to better fulfill its international obligations in the domain of human rights	Cote d'Ivoire	Accepted	3	Technical assistance
26	Establish a legal and institutional framework consistent with the international standards on combating the trafficking of persons to effectively address this problem	Nicaragua	Accepted	5	Trafficking
27	Strengthen its efforts to deal with human trafficking offences through studying international best practice and developing domestic legislation in conformity with international standards, establishing as appropriate institutions and agencies and strengthening cooperation with international organizations and bodies	Iran	Accepted	4	Trafficking
39	Expand opportunities for training and awareness-raising in the area of human rights for members of the security forces	Saudi Arabia	Accepted	4	Human rights education and training
46	Continue efforts to ensure mutual understanding and peaceful interaction between all segments of Lebanese society	Qatar	Accepted	2	Other
48	Explore the possibility of establishing national-level coordination mechanism to assess and monitor implementation of the Government's treaty obligations	Malaysia	Accepted	3	Other
58	Continue efforts to combat human trafficking	Bahrain	Accepted	2	Trafficking
59	Continue efforts to ensure protection for the victims of human trafficking	Jordan	Accepted	2	Trafficking
60	Continue with endeavours to accelerate the ongoing process of creating additional mechanism to protect human rights and to further the efforts in the field of combating human trafficking	Sri Lanka	Accepted	2	Trafficking
61	Continue to guarantee freedom of expression creating additional conditions for its fulfilment	Armenia	Accepted	2	Freedom of opinion and expression



66	Further strengthen the protection of rights of vulnerable groups, like children, women, migrant workers and persons with disabilities	Bangladesh	Accepted	4	Disabilities, Labour, Migrants, Rights of the Child, Women's rights
74	Strengthen capacity-building in the area of human rights and raise the level of awareness with regard to these rights	Kuwait	Accepted	4	Human rights education and training
84	Continue seeking technical and financial assistance for demining activities, given that children continue to be among the most vulnerable sections of Lebanese society particularly in terms of their exposure to explosive remnants of war	Malaysia	Accepted	2	Rights of the Child, Technical assistance
85	Continue cooperation with the human rights mechanisms	United Arab Emirates	Accepted	2	General
86	Ratify the optional protocols to ICESCR and ICCPR and the optional protocols to CEDAW and the one concerning children in armed conflict, signed in 2007	Spain	Rejected	5	CP rights - general, ESC rights - general, International instruments, Rights of the Child, Women's rights
102	End the prerogatives of the Ministry of Defence and Military Courts to detain and to charge civilians respectively	Germany	Rejected	4	Justice
103	Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to comply with international standards	Slovakia	Rejected	5	Justice, Rights of the Child
104	Continue to address the issue of street children by adopting a comprehensive national strategy to provide these children with official documents and adequate assistance, including recovery and social reintegration services	Poland	Rejected	4	Rights of the Child
110	Amend the personal status laws in line with CEDAW, to ensure that women are treated in the same way as men in issues related to child custody, inheritance and divorce	Netherlands	Rejected	5	Detention conditions, International instruments, Women's rights
112	Continue its efforts in reviewing its labour law with a view to including migrant workers in its scope	Norway	Rejected	2	Labour, Migrants
113	That the current sponsorship system, - kafala', be revoked and replaced with regulations in accordance with international standards	Norway	Rejected	5	Rights of the Child
114	Extend the protection of the Labour Code to domestic workers	Poland	Rejected	4	Labour
115	Review the system of sponsorship for domestic workers in order to protect them against abuse from employers	Canada	Rejected	3	Labour



116	Extend the protection of the labour law to domestic workers and ensure that the rules concerning the right to stay do not put them in a situation of dependence from their employers	France	Rejected	4	Labour
117	Accelerate procedures at the Ministry of Labour to complete implementing regulations to facilitate the employment of Palestinians and open access to employment in all liberal professions	Palestine	Rejected	4	Labour
118	Lift the obstacles to employ Palestinian refugees, give access to employment to the Palestinian refugees, give access to free education to all children of refugees and enable universal health care	France	Rejected	5	Asylum-seekers - refugees, Labour, Right to education, Right to health, Rights of the Child
119	Guarantee freedom of movement for the Palestinian refugees and commit to the improvement of their employment	France	Rejected	4	Asylum-seekers - refugees, Development, Freedom of movement
121	Issue permits to refugees in Lebanon to allow them freedom of movement and employment, including the right to work in professions that require syndicate membership, and without onerous renewal or fee restrictions	United States	Rejected	5	Asylum-seekers - refugees, Freedom of movement, Labour
122	Grant Palestinian refugees the right to own land	Norway	Rejected	5	Asylum-seekers - refugees, Right to land
123	Take legislative action to ensure the right of the Palestinian refugees to inherit and register property, including the right to own land	Finland	Rejected	4	Asylum-seekers - refugees, Right to land
124	Amend legislation that restricts the ability of Palestinian refugees to own property, specifically the Presidential Decree of January 1969, as modified in April 2001	Netherlands	Rejected	5	Asylum-seekers - refugees, Right to land
125	Resolve fully the problem of the identification documents of the Palestinian refugees and modify legislative provisions and policies that have discriminatory consequences on the Palestinian population as compared to other non-citizens	Ireland	Rejected	4	Asylum-seekers - refugees
126	Further improve the enjoyment of all human rights by Palestinian refugees, granting them a legal treatment no worse than to other non-nationals, especially with regard to right to work and to freedom of movement taking into account the responsibility of the international community	Brazil	Rejected	4	Asylum-seekers - refugees, Freedom of movement, Labour
127	Bridge the gaps left by the amended law on registered Palestinian Refugees, such as allowing Palestinian refugees to extract temporary work permits	Netherlands	Rejected	4	Asylum-seekers - refugees, Labour



128	Take efficient measures to swiftly ameliorate the situation of Palestinian refugees including amending legislative provisions and policies that have a discriminatory effect on the Palestinian population	Finland	Rejected	4	Asylum-seekers - refugees
129	Adopt the necessary laws to contribute to alleviate the socio-economic conditions of Palestinian refugees	Canada	Rejected	5	Asylum-seekers - refugees, ESC rights - general
130	Amend all discriminatory provisions in personal status laws in particular issues related to child custody, inheritance and divorce	Israel	Rejected	5	Rights of the Child, Women's rights
131	Immediately implement Security Council resolutions 1559 and 1701 by disbanding and disarming all militias and armed factions, in particular Hizbullah, and restore security and stability for all residents of Lebanon	Israel	Rejected	5	Public security
132	Submit the initial report to the UN Committee against Torture - CAT -, overdue since 2001	Israel	Rejected	5	Torture and other CID treatment, Treaty bodies
133	Consider the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance	Germany	Accepted	3	Enforced disappearances, International instruments
134	Ratify the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, signed in 2007	Spain	Accepted	5	Enforced disappearances, International instruments
135	Consider ratification of the Geneva Conventions	Germany	Accepted	3	International humanitarian law, International instruments
136	Establish an independent national body empowered to investigate the whereabouts of missing persons and victims of enforced disappearance, in the context of the various wars that have occurred in the country	Mexico	Accepted	5	Enforced disappearances, Justice
137	Establish a process to identify the victims by setting up a DNA database, exhume mass graves and to set up a national commission on missing persons	Germany	Accepted	5	Justice
138	Criminalise all acts of torture as set forth in the Convention against Torture and adopt punishments in line with the gravity of the crime	United States	Accepted	5	International instruments, Torture and other CID treatment
139	Increase the penalty for the crime of torture from the current maximum of three years, proportional with the severity of the crime	Netherlands	Accepted	5	Torture and other CID treatment
140	Abolish the crime of honour in its penal code and continue to take the necessary measures in order to better promote women's rights in all spheres of the society	Greece	Accepted	5	Rights of the Child, Women's rights



144	Strengthen the capacity of the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Commission to assist Palestinian Refugees as a step to improve the human rights and humanitarian situation for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon	United Kingdom	Accepted	4	Asylum-seekers - refugees
145	Extend an open and standing invitation to the special procedures, as a gesture of Lebanon's openness and commitment to cooperate with the human rights international mechanisms.	Mexico	Accepted	5	Special procedures
146	Issue a standing invitation to all UN special procedures	Poland	Accepted	5	Special procedures
147	Extend an open and standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council	Spain	Accepted	5	Special procedures
148	In conclusion, the head of delegation reconfirmed the Government's commitment and full respect of international standards of human rights and its commitment to cooperation with international mechanisms and civil society organizations.	Lebanon	Voluntary Pledge	4	Civil society
149	Lebanon was pleased to announce that it had accepted to extend a standing invitation to all Special Procedures mandate holders to visit the country, and that preparation of overdue reports to treaty bodies, including CAT, was under way.	Lebanon	Voluntary Pledge	5	Special procedures, Torture and other CID treatment, Treaty bodies

A= Action Category (see on [our website](#))

SMR = State making recommendation

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