



LEBANON

Resolution tabled by the KATAEB Party of Lebanon at the IDU Executive Meeting on 6th December 2019 in Washington DC, USA

The International Democratic Union (IDU) is following closely the situation in Lebanon amid the anti-government protests that started on October 17th, 2019. Caused by increased corruption, increasing taxation policy by the government, economic slowdown – resulting in companies closing and unemployment rate increasing dramatically -, and government crackdown on freedoms, the Lebanese revolution spread throughout the whole country and unified the Lebanese people across regions and sects, in a unified movement unseen after the Lebanese civil war.

The IDU expresses its support to the Lebanese people in demanding reforms and ending corruption, as well as higher living standards and economic growth. However, the IDU regrets the failure of a quick and decisive response of the Lebanese Government and its ruling parties to the people's demands and the immediate implementation of radical reforms to save the country's economy.

Therefore, the IDU:

SUPPORTS the demands of the Lebanese people asking for economic reforms, the formation of a neutral government to implement austerity measures, and the call for early parliamentary elections in the summer of 2020;

IS ALARMED by the nonchalance of the ruling parties in meeting the Lebanese Revolt's demands and their negligence to the size of the economic and financial crisis;

CONDEMNS the violent crackdown against peaceful protesters, which was undertaken by supporters of Hezbollah and Amal Movement, trying to drag the country into street clashes between citizens;

DENOUNCES the government's suppression of protesters by making daily arrests in all Lebanese regions, and trying to silence the free voices of the country;

SUPPORTS the efforts of the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in keeping the protesters safe, despite attempts from the supporters of the ruling parties to jeopardize the peaceful aspect of the revolution;

URGES the ruling parties of Lebanon to find an end to the current crisis, by responding to the demands of the protesters and take the country out of its crisis;

INVITES the international community, the US, UK and France, as well as the Arab countries, to pressure the Lebanese Government to end the current crisis, taking into account the presence of more than one million Syrian refugees in Lebanon, and the dangers that the country's collapse might bring to the security of the country in particular, and the MENA region.