Delegation from the Lebanese Republic
Position Paper for the United Nations General Assembly

The topics for the session of the General Assembly at GerMUN 2019 are: the role of emerging technologies in international security and disarmament, improving mechanisms for accountability and transparency within the UN System, intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women. The Lebanese Republic being truly affected by all those issues looks forward to addressing them. We hope to influence the discussion constructively through our diverse background and beneficial diplomatic relations.

I. The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament

The Lebanese Republic is especially worried about the improvements that have been made in the field of unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UAV). Given the situation in the Middle East, we are highly concerned as emerging technologies in the form of UAVs used for military purposes pose a threat to our national sovereignty and to the integrity of our territory. In particular, we note with regret the endeavour of many states in the Middle East to improve its military resources by constantly investing in military research and technology. In particular, Lebanese airspace has been entered without permission. UAVs present a danger as they can be easily misused or hacked and so far no regulatory framework exists. Therefore, the international community must strengthen its efforts in developing and providing international frameworks and standards and for the new technologies such as unmanned aerial vehicles and its monitoring.

The Lebanese Republic welcomes the Report of the Secretary General 73/177 (2018) on current developments and technology and the latest resolution, General Assembly resolution 73/32 (2018), stating the need to address the risk of proliferation through new technologies. We recall the Secretary-General's 2018 Agenda for Disarmament stating that standards for transparency, accountability and supervision could ensure that armed UAVs are only used in ways which contribute to international security and does not constitute a risk to international security. We also welcome the event hosted by the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), which dealt with the expanding use of armed UAVs and the need for international standards in October 2018. However, we believe that these efforts must be intensified, as international frameworks and mechanism for the use of UAV's have not been established yet.

The Lebanese Republic proposes to establish a special working group named Future and Framework of UAVs (FFUAV) within the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) dealing with armed UAVs in particular. The aim should be to establish a monitoring mechanism and to establish a framework for a safe handling of UAVs. It should report its efforts to the Secretary General and should consist of military experts (countries are invited to send military experts from their army), experts from the UNODA who should dispatch science experts who have already dealt with constructing UAVs and IT-experts focusing on the risk of hacking those UAVs. UNODA shall finance this working group. We propose to hold an opening meeting at the headquarter of UNODA in Vienna at the beginning, so that the working group can discuss further details on how the work shall be organized specifically and then meet on a regular basis in order to brief the international community on ongoing developments in the field of UAVs.

II. Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System

The Lebanese Republic notes with concern that due to the increasing complexity of the work of the UN, the coordination between the UN and the government of Lebanon consequently suffers. The operating ranges of the UN Interim Force (UNIFIL) and UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Lebanon have broadened and different sub-bodies in different areas have emerged. Overall, 24 different UN-entities operate in Lebanon. Thus, it is hardly possible to coordinate all decisions. Moreover, Lebanese are hardly represented in leading positions in the UN entities. We appreciate the efforts made by UN-entities securing our territory and saving lives. Nevertheless, the above-mentioned development might pose a threat to our sovereignty and lead to a loss of trust. Therefore, we want to focus on improving the coordination between the host states being subject of peacekeeping missions and other mandates and the United Nations, as we are directly affected by the presence of several entities. In particular, we as a host country want to have a greater say in decision-making both in terms of improving mechanisms for accountability and transparency within the UN system on the international level but also in terms of decisions the UN bodies specifically make in Lebanon.

The Lebanese Republic acknowledges the efforts of the United Nations in the field of coordination and host governments, which included, in our case, the establishment of the Office of the United Nations Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL) in 2007 to coordinate the work of UNIFL and the UN Country Team, which provides coordination between all UN agencies operating in Lebanon. However, we regret that in these offices the representation of Lebanese people is very low. We welcome the endeavors to reform peacekeeping in general through the implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative (A4P) of March 2018. We believe that the *Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations* 2018, which is a part of the initiative, presents an important step towards strengthening the trust in international peacekeeping. Yet, to gain trust, the attention must be shifted towards improving the transparency and coordination through a greater say of host countries in the implementation and decision-making in the A4P.

The Lebanese Republic therefore suggests establishing an annually held conference named "Coordinating the Future – UN missions and mandates" (COF M&M). Participants should be delegations of host countries including government representatives other high-ranking officials. Aim of this conference is to establish a platform in which all involved countries together with leading UN representatives can discuss plans for a better coordination between states and UN entities. The conference should be divided into three parts: general discussions on improving the coordination between UN entities and host states, reforming peacekeeping in favor of host states and country-specific talks. In terms of financing, we suggest to use resources from the UN-Peacekeeping fund. All in all, we believe that all host countries would benefit, but also the UN system in general, as trust would be gained, if the transparency and coordination is improved.

III. Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women

The Lebanese Republic is concerned that in a situation of conflict and war, the risk of violence against women is drastically high. Over 950.00 Syrian refugees are currently living in Lebanon. Many of them suffered from the Syrian civil war and are traumatized due to sexual violence and the difficult living conditions in refugee camps, which heighten their susceptibility to sexual exploitation and put them at risk. Lebanon supports the efforts of the international community to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls. We are very thankful for the support of the international community to improve the situation of refugees in Lebanon: the Lebanese government together with UNHCR are supporting female refugees through prevention and with protection and special medical assistance. Nevertheless, as this constitutes a global problem, we must intensify our efforts to raise global awareness of the suffering of female refugees and improve the situation in refugee camps all over the world.

The Lebanese Republic reaffirms the crucial importance of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women* (CEDAW). We want to emphasize the importance of the creation of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and UN Women, which helped to raise global awareness of violence against women. We recall the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the advancement of Women (1985), stating the responsibility to protect refugees and displaced women and children. We approve the adaption of General Assembly resolution 73/148 (2018) concerning sexual harassment and General Assembly resolution 73/146 (2018) concerning trafficking in women and girls to which Lebanon being a sponsor had contributed. We commend the efforts of UN women to launch different campaigns like #HearMeToo. However, despite the raising awareness Lebanon misses the focus on especially tackling violence against female refugees.

The Lebanese Republic suggests to instruct the CSW and UN Women to launch a campaign focusing on violence against women in war torn regions and female refugees, named #HearUsToo. We propose to first launch a social media campaign to raise global awareness and to raise donations for financing better refugee camps but also to launch specific projects. Along with it, a conference should be held made up of representatives from affected countries, from UN Women, CSW, UNHCR and other entities. Aim of the conference is to offer a platform for discussions: It offers an opportunity to increase the cooperation between the above-mentioned organizations, to enhance the work among their own coordination units and to discuss how the situation of female refugees can be improved in host countries and in the countries of origins. Besides, the working groups are opportune to be a nexus of country- and region-specific as well as global approaches what is in turn the key for bettering the situation. The CSW and UN Women shall be the main organizer for the campaign and conference. In conclusion, we believe that this conference and campaign would be an important step to intensify the global efforts to eliminate violence against female refugees.