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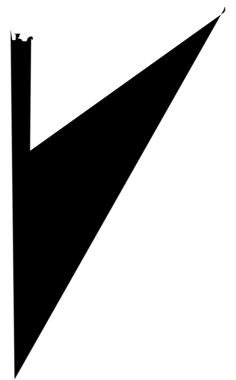
H.E. Dr. Walid Fayad

Minister of Energy and Water of Lebanon

at the

High-Level Dialogue on Energy

New York, September 24, 2021



Cheh agai de i e

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

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning.

It gives me a real pleasure to be with you today and address the United Nations General Assembly on behalf of H.E. General Michel Aoun, President of the Lebanese Republic. Our meeting today comes at a critical point in the history of mankind: while countries are still facing the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and still trying to recover from its devastating economic consequences, climate change remains a real threat that requires immediate actions from our side.

The challenges that countries are facing due to climate change combined with the pandemic are also witnessed in our small country Lebanon. The energy sector in our country has been under huge pressure for decades now, and is undoubtedly a major burden to our national economy. Although access to electricity is ensured to around 99% of the Lebanese population, however continuous brownouts and blackouts make the heavily subsidized Lebanese energy system unreliable. Facing this reality, Lebanese citizens are forced to seek unaffordable solutions generating their own backup electricity with all the associated negative environmental consequences.

Despite the enormous efforts invested to improve the situation, the Lebanese population still suffers from the lack of electricity, with major negative effects on the national economy. In addition, the country lacks a modern infrastructure of the electricity system that is robust enough to accommodate large renewable energy projects. Yet, as a new government has been recently assigned, one key objective of our government is to find a permanent solution to this sector, and it is unquestionable that sustainable energy is the main milestone to build a reliable and prosperous energy sector in Lebanon.

This government will build on the past achievements in this regard. In fact, during the ten past years, the decentralized solar photovoltaic market increased from barely few kilowatts of installations to more than 100 MW today,

Laws and regulations are being developed to increase insulation in the buildings stock and move towards near-zero energy houses. It is of utmost importance to focus on energy efficiency since it is still by far the best path to save on energy, reduce emissions, and ensure a sustainable future.

The new government is committed to continue the national efforts towards developing sustainable energy in Lebanon, specifically in accordance with the Renewables Readiness Assessment and Renewables Mapping (Remap) developed with the support of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Together with IRENA, we have set more ambitious targets to have renewable energy contribute to 30% of the electricity consumption by 2030. Our aim is to have 4,000 MW of solar farms installed by 2030, and around 1,000 MW of wind farms. Such big projects would entail the use of large storage capacity using the latest technologies available.

This commitment by the Lebanese Government to these targets can only be achieved by a strong partnership between Lebanese and international administrations, institutions, and companies.

Our commitment is now translated into the “Lebanon Energy Compact” submitted few days ago to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and CEO for Sustainable Energy for All thanks to the support of IRENA.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a “decade f