



**Statement by Lebanon
General Debate - Trade and Development Board, 73rd session
Geneva, 17 September 2026**

Excellencies,

Lebanon aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Group of 77 and China.

Lebanon is going through one of the most difficult periods in its modern history. The country continues to face ongoing Israeli hostilities, which have displaced communities and severely disrupted economic activity. This adds to a prolonged financial and economic crisis, further constraining the country's ability to respond and sustain economic activity.

According to the World Bank, the 2023–2024 conflict alone caused \$14 billion in damage and economic losses, with reconstruction and recovery needs estimated at \$11 billion. The renewed escalation since March 2026 has further set back a fragile recovery: GDP is now projected to contract by 6.4 per cent this year, reversing 4.2 per cent growth in 2025. Lebanon's Ministry of Finance estimates the cumulative cost of these successive shocks at close to \$20 billion, a figure that continues to rise as the crisis persists.

For Lebanon, the immediate priority is to preserve productive capacity and keep the economy functioning, while maintaining the conditions needed for recovery when circumstances permit.

In this context, Lebanon attaches particular importance to UNCTAD's work in areas directly relevant to these challenges.

We further appreciate UNCTAD's work on investment and productive capacity, particularly at a time when countries are seeking to sustain investment and economic activity amid repeated shocks.

Lebanon also welcomes the establishment of the Borrowers' Platform and its focus on enabling borrowing developing countries to exchange experiences, strengthen debt-management capacity and address common challenges. This is particularly relevant to countries facing serious debt and financing constraints, including Lebanon. We also value UNCTAD's technical cooperation in debt management.

In light of the above, we call upon UNCTAD:

- 1- to extend its Debt Management and Financial Analysis system to support Lebanon's debt restructuring efforts.**
- 2- to support conflict-affected developing countries in assessing the impact of hostilities on trade, productive capacity and logistics infrastructure. Lebanon would welcome UNCTAD's engagement in this regard, including through the continued assessment of the impact of the recent hostilities on Lebanon's trade and productive sectors in close cooperation with other UN relevant agencies.**

Thank you, Madam President