



A Message of Confidence

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Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear Lebanese fellow-citizens, expatriates,

Dear Lebanese messengers,

Messengers, I say, because I truly believe in the inherent genuine visionary message that each and every one of you has been committed to bear since you or your ancestors first marked the path into migration. This message simply conveys a story of creating opportunities out of crises through resilience, perseverance, and confidence, leading to undeniable achievements.

This same message underlines Banque Du Liban's mission: a mission that is based on firm pillars complementing economic growth and development on one side and societal security and stability on the other. One of these pillars is manifested in maintaining a steady monetary system since the early nineties, based on stable currency, controlled inflation rates, restrained interest rates, enhanced foreign reserves that have surpassed USD 39 billion, and a robust gold reserves that rank second in the MENA region mounting to USD 11 billion, at today's prices. Another pillar is built on the efficient management of Lebanon's public debt and preserving the credit confidence of the economy. A third pillar is securing sound banking and financial systems that adhere to international banking, accounting, and governance standards and compliance requirements, encompassing a deposit cash base which exceeds USD 150 billion through its internationally dispersed network. A fourth pillar reflects the developmental role played by Banque Du Liban through the provision of economic stimulus packages through availing debt as well as

equity financing for small-and-medium enterprises, meeting the socio-economic needs of citizens, and enhancing the investment capacities of promising Lebanese productive sectors, most important of which is Knowledge Economy. These stimulus packages have totaled to almost USD four billion between the years of 2013 and 2015, contributing to 50% of the GDP growth rate.

Building a prosperous economic future for Lebanon relies on three strategic sectors: oil and gas, banking and finance, and Knowledge Economy. However, we believe that the fourth sector yet aspired to capitalize on all other strategic sectors is YOU, the Lebanese expatriates, on whom we count to be agents of development and renaissance for your home country, thus transforming the crisis of brain drain into a haven of development catalysts.

Thank you for keeping Lebanon in your hearts and minds.