

PREAMBLE



Esteemed reader.

This is a study about a vision of hope for a society in despair. Under the patronage of UNODC, dedicated consultancy companies with long-standing ties to Lebanon and to the Port of Beirut engaged to draw options for a new harbour and for a more livable city. After the devastating explosion of August 4th there is an urgent need to rebuild for the society as a whole. Implemented transparently and with all institutional adaptations required, this could be a first step of reform.

Many elements are at stake. Many of them are tackled in this study. This study does not show options of clean-up and repair, neither is it only about a container hub. It is about options for a transparent and independently run port for Lebanon's trade. And it is about bringing back a form of social cohesion through options for urban planning. All options suggest

- affordable family living for a much-neglected educated middle-class,
- public spaces with green, lake, beaches, and promenade,
- public facilities of kindergartens, schools, health, sports grounds, and transport,
- coverage of the current damages of the city of Beirut following the explosion.

These options however do not end at the level of ideas. The study goes into possible avenues of implementation. From my understanding three elements prove to be key:

- **Trust:** Anyone involved will bring in his standing first, towards civil society as much as towards others to engage.
- **Means:** It will not be only about technical know-how but about the weight to sign off and secure the volume needed.
- **Impact:** The research institute involved calculated an impact in Lebanon of up to 50.000 newly created permanent jobs and an overall income of US\$ 30 bn. These are parameters of true development.

The Lebanese shore measures a mere 160 km to Cyprus. As Parliamentary State Secretary in the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, I see any endeavour as a European vision and nothing but. Any approach by a single country alone would eventually not materialize. And it would not be for the best for the country: As European countries, together we have the range of contributions and the strength needed.

May this study of options open the arena to European private actors to engage in implementing true reform and development.

April 2021

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