

Assessment of the Level of Inclusiveness of Public Policies in Lebanon

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List of Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CADE	UNESCO Convention Against Discrimination In Education
CAS	Central Administration for Statistics
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEDROMA	Center for Legal studies in the Arab World
CERD	Center for Educational Research and Development
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CNR	National Research Council of Italy
CNRS	National Center for Scientific Research
COFAI	Central Office for Administrative Information
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Commission
EFA	Education For All
EU	European Union
FOSS	Free and Open Source Software
GSIM	Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media
HCC	Higher Council for Childhood
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
ICTs	Information and Communication Technologies
IGC	Intergovernmental Committee
IDAL	Investment Development Authority of Lebanon
ILO	International Labor Organization
IRI	Industrial Research Institute
LARI	Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute
LNCCE	Lebanese National Consultative Committee on Ethics
LPHU	Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEHE	Ministry of Education and Higher Education
MOIM	Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health
MOSA	Ministry of Social Affairs
MOST	Management of Social Transformations Programme
MOYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports

MDI	Media Development Indicators
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSSF	National Social Security Fund
OMSAR	Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PWD	Person(s) with disabilities
SETI	Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation
S&T	Scientific and Technological activities
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
TRIPS	WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UCPD	UNESCO Country Programming Document
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN-ESCWA	UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN HABITAT	United Nations Agency for Human Settlement
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIDROIT	International Institute for the Unification of International Law
UNRWA	UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees
USJ	Saint Joseph University
WFS/DMS	Workflow, Document Management and Archiving System
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society
WSSD	World Summit for Social Development

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“Today, more than one billion people live with some form of disability. They are more likely to experience poverty and discrimination and less likely to have access to social welfare services, while their position does not always make it possible for them to uphold and claim their rights.

We must support their dignity, rights and well-being as essential conditions for equality and justice. Disability is a development issue that we must address to achieve all internationally-agreed goals.

Action starts with Governments, which should implement international normative frameworks, and especially the 2006 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Across society – in schools, in the private sector, in civil society -- we have a responsibility to ensure that all persons enjoy equal rights and that women and men are empowered to participate fully in social, political, economic and cultural life.

The promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and their inclusion stands at the heart of UNESCO’s work.”

(Extract from the Message from Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3 December 2012)

Introduction

UNESCO's programme on the "Assessment of the Level of Inclusiveness of Public Policies" aims at strengthening regional and national capacity to assess, compare and reform national policy and regulatory frameworks in view of increasing their inclusiveness and social sustainability. A methodology is developed to assess levels of inclusiveness and social sustainability of public policy and regulatory frameworks formulated, validated and made available to the selected jurisdictions (Annex II). It was applied in nine countries, including in Lebanon to assess national policy frameworks in a coordinated and participatory manner. The policy assessment therefore aims to provide government and non-government policy practitioners and rights holder groups with technical support and advisory services for the operationalisation of the policy recommendations and scenarios, and the design of socially inclusive policies and planning processes.

In fact, the assessment is structured into six sections. In addition to a brief outline on the human right-related conventions and treaties, UNESCO chose to explore five thematic areas of significance to its directives. The thematic areas are: (1) education, (2) science, (3) culture, (4) communication and information, and (5) civic and political participation. Each of these areas embraces a broad analysis of the associated international conventions (including the government position regarding their signature, ratification, rejection, or other) in addition to national legislative and policy framework (including constitution, sectoral laws, decrees, decisions, strategies, other). The assessment highlights the progress made in the public policies from the standpoint of the following human right-based holders: (1) migrant workers and their families, (2) women, (3) persons with disabilities, (4) children and youth, and (5) religious minorities.

In Lebanon, the policy assessment started in February 2013 and ended in August 2013, using the methodology, with participation of a number of stakeholders and right-holders. It also explored a way to feed into the national efforts of policy review with regards to the social inclusion of Persons with disabilities (PWD) in particular of young age group in Lebanon.

It is expected that the end-results of the assessment will enclose several benefits:

- The assessment would assist the concerned government institutions to have a holistic perception of Lebanon's commitment towards international treaties, and the level of these commitments to have been effectively converted into a set of national legal instruments and measures that address the rights of the identified right-based holder groups within the identified sectors. It will also touch upon the legal and policy gaps that necessitate to concentrate on in the short, medium and long span;
- The overview may also consent to diverse civil society groups and nongovernmental organizations to further understand the state of the marginalized group(s) they work for, to ascertain the inconsistencies in their response, and as a result, to better formulate their actions, be it lobbying, advocacy, service-oriented or other;
- More importantly, the assessment will serve the Lebanese Government at large to reconsider its social and development policies and strategies in order to achieve more inclusive services and opportunities.

In this report, the results of the assessment are presented. In the first section, we analyze the process including lessons learnt. Then, we discuss the definition of social inclusion in the Lebanese context and suggestions coming from the focus group meetings (Section II). The third section is an analysis of achievements and challenges in laws and regulations to measure social inclusiveness in five policy areas (Education, Science, Culture, Communication and Information, Civic and Political Participation). The final section (IV) focuses on the social inclusion of young Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and discusses the ways forward to promote their social inclusion at policy and social levels.

I. Policy Assessment in Lebanon

The assessment included the following steps:

- 1) Desk review regarding the definition and the adoption of “social inclusion” in public laws and policies in general, and those of relevance to persons with disabilities in specific;
- 2) Desk review of the existing laws, decrees and decisions, as well as of the strategies, action plans and reports relevant to the identified thematic areas;
- 3) Organization of 4 focus group discussions that were organized at UNESCO Beirut premises on 29 and 30 July 2013; results of the discussions were fed into the overall assessment;
- 4) Conducting meetings and interviews with a number of stakeholders, as indicated below in details;
- 5) Thorough review of the sectoral indicators that were established in the assessment, and accordingly, the selection of five indicators that can be adopted to monitor the level of achieving the rights of young persons with disabilities;
- 6) Presentation of the draft assessment report for final validation by all government and nongovernmental bodies that contributed to the assessment at various stages of the exercise.

• *Stakeholders involved in the assessment process*

The following profile of institutions was involved in the assessment exercise:

- A copy of the assessment was sent to the Ministries of Education and Higher Education, Social Affairs, Information, Culture, Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform, in addition to the National Council for Scientific Research and the Lebanese National Consultative Committee on Ethics (LNCCE)”. In this respect, precise questions were taken out from the overall assessment form to respond to the mandate and responsibilities of each Ministry, thus facilitating the task of review and feedback. Follow-up was ensured with the government institutions that expressed interest to take part into the assessment process;
- Similarly, questions of relevance to media institutions, including radio, television, and nongovernmental organizations involved in monitoring media and information in Lebanon were extracted from the overall assessment and shared;
- Five focus groups were planned to take place from 29 to 31 July 2013. A key consequential objective for bringing together government and nongovernmental entities into these focus groups is to correlate the knowledge and perceptions of participants regarding the sector, and therefore, to complement any potentially missing information. Due to the complexity encountered to identify bodies or organizations that may address all aspects of each of the UNESCO thematic area, the focus groups were mostly designed to look at the Lebanese public policies from a right-based holder perspective. Accordingly, four focus groups addressed separately the rights of (1) women, (2) persons with disabilities (PWD), (3) children and youth, and (4) migrant workers and their families. Each focus group included an average of 9 government and non-government institutions known to be active in the specific field. The fifth focus group was organized to discuss the issues of information and communication. Unfortunately, this focus group was cancelled due to the non-attendance of media institutions and organizations.

The assessment process took into account the selection and invitation of representatives among government and non-governmental institutions, which were identified either for their involvement in the services related to the identified thematic areas, or for their active contribution to lobbying and advocacy for the rights of the marginalized groups. At the government level, representatives of the

parliament, ministries, and national councils are contacted and met, specifically to acquire information and feedback on the legal and institutional instruments as well as national policies and strategies developed in that regard.

The quality of information is another parameter taken into account in the process of its collection. Since the key objective of the assessment revolves around public policies, the collected information reflects those data extracted from official documents or from trustworthy sources, in order to minimize the likelihood of bias or misreading. Also, the assessment did not tackle describing or referring to nongovernmental initiatives in order to avoid any misinterpretation or a partiality in the selection of initiatives.

- ***Focusing on the rights of young persons with disabilities (PWD)***

The policy assessment in Lebanon explored a way to feed into the national efforts of policy review with regards to the social inclusion of Persons with disabilities (PWD) in particular of young age group in Lebanon, such as recommendations prepared by national stakeholders for the Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR, 2011), the Disability Monitor 2012, (LPHU and National Inclusion Network), a critical review of the legislation of law 220/2000 (LPHU and Diakonia, 2012), Emerging Good Practices Related to the Training and Job Placement of Persons with Disabilities in Lebanon (ILO, November 2012), the National Educational Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2012 (Center for Educational Research and Development, Ministry of Education and Higher Education) and the National Youth Policy 2012 (Ministry of Youth and Sports).

At the first phase of the policy assessment (February-April, 2013), UNESCO has commissioned Dr. Nawaf Kabbara to prepare an overview report of the policy context of social inclusion of young persons with disabilities (PWD), which examined the implementation status of the Law 220/2000 (Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) and provided a set of preliminary policy recommendations. A national steering committee was established in coordination with the Lebanese National commission for UNESCO to oversee the policy review process. The committee included around 10 representatives from key ministries (Social Affairs, Education and Public Health), the National Council for Disability Affairs, key DPOs and associations including schools for children with special needs, media together with the National Commission for UNESCO and a group of UN agencies (ILO, UN-ESCWA, WHO and UNRC) as observers. Some stakeholders (other ministries and private sector) did not respond to UNESCO invitation in becoming a member of the committee.

Based on the overview report of the policy context of social inclusion of young persons with disabilities, a skeleton of a five-year strategic action plan focusing on the rights and needs of young persons with disabilities was developed, with a focus on a set of 5 to 6 objectives with best/worst case scenario targets and key outcomes. The skeleton of the strategic action plan included: indicators, responsible institution, as well as financial input and timeframe needed to execute the action plan. A first format of this strategic action plan was prepared and presented in the national workshop that was held on April 2nd 2013 (refer to Social Inclusiveness Strategic Action Plan (Draft 1, in the Annex I).

In the national workshop (2 April 2013), a group of national stakeholders mainly from community based organizations (CSOs) debated the challenges of social inclusion of PWD, and the evidence-based and participatory policy making in Lebanon, based on the presentation of the draft overview report of Dr. Kabbara. Using the format prepared of the strategic action, the group discussions focused on the likely availability and relevance of the data and information in the six policy areas, as a determinant factor for policy analysis and policy making. The national consultation resulted in some common stance among national stakeholders:

1. Data and information unavailability and lack of access to them are hindering policy work of government and non-government partners;
2. The development and finalization of the strategic action plan requires longer time than set for the exercise. This requires first a further collaboration among key public institutions directly or indirectly concerned by PWDs. It also requires the identification and involvement of national nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) active in lobbying and advocacy for putting in place or enforcing public legislations and policies;
3. A more coordinated approach, starting with information sharing, among stakeholders is a must in leveraging efforts of each towards a policy formulation and more impactful and sustainable actions.

Based on these recommendations, ministries involved in the UNESCO consultation meetings, particularly the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), agreed to hold regular meetings where other concerned ministries will be invited and involved in order to respond to the key questions raised in the draft strategic action plan. However, only one meeting took place at the premises of the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO, attended by the ministries of Public Works and Transport (MPWT), Ministry of Youth and Sport (MOYS), Social Affairs (MOSA), Education and Higher Education (MEHE), Public Health (MOPH), and Labour (MOL), in the presence of a representative of the National Council on Disability (NCOD). The meeting asserted the need for continuous collaboration and cooperation among public bodies.

In parallel to the policy assessment, a second exercise started aiming first to understand the definition of “social inclusion” in policy practice of key ministries and existing programmes targeting persons with disabilities in particular (May-August 2013). The results of this exercise are presented later in the framework of this report.

Last but not least, two additional mapping exercises were initiated:

- Mapping Disabled Persons’ Organizations (DPOs) and associations working on disability issues in Lebanon;
- Good practices on media and advocacy efforts in promoting the rights of PWDs in Lebanon.

The assessment methodology of social inclusion in public policies was finally made available by UNESCO/Social Inclusion Team in May 2013. It looks at the public policy and regulatory frameworks in 5 policy areas (Education, Science, Culture, Communication & Information, Civic and Political participation). A set of qualitative indicators have been reviewed based on the information collected by desk review, hearings and meetings with experts from Ministries/ NGOs and UN agencies together with a series of focus group discussions. In order to make a smoother connection to the national consultation with a focus on the social inclusion of young persons with disabilities, which has been already started, a set of indicators has been extracted from the report.

The final phase of the assessment is planned in October 2013 to make a closer linkage of the findings to the further policy making in promoting social inclusion of young persons with disabilities by creating a consensus and a wider participation of stakeholders, if the political and security context allows.

• *Lessons Learnt from the assessment process in Lebanon*

Despite the fact that Lebanon has developed quite an interesting array of legislative instruments that are of significance to the identified thematic areas, the enforcement of these texts remains a huge obstruction towards achieving the rights of marginalized groups.

In fact, compared to the deployed efforts in ensuring the participatory policy review process by UNESCO, with the involvement of government and non-governmental institutions, the feedback through the written surveys, direct interviews and focus-group discussions was rather limited. The reasons for not contributing to the assessment varied as per the following:

- The confidentiality of the requested information, in particular those related to international conventions and treaties. Besides, it was somehow much easier to identify answers to Lebanon status regarding conventions and treaties on the UN related portals and pages, while it was much more complicated to have a similar understanding of the content and principles contained in the instruments (e.g. Declaration on Right to Development, Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace) or regional instruments. Therefore, the answers transposed in the assessment reflect strictly what has been found in, or interpreted from official documentations.
- The complexity of the answers which require the document to be reviewed by a number of departments within the same ministry. This is the case of, for instance, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE. Other institutions, such as the National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS) pointed out that responding to the assessment requires longer time;
- A number of events related to women, children or persons with disabilities, took place in the same time of conducting the assessment; therefore, holding another conference or meeting targeting any of these groups was considered redundant;
- The constant volatile security and political situation hindered the participation of the press, television and radio institutions to the meetings;
- The time of fulfilling the assessment coincided with the holidays of a number of officials, and the fasting period of Ramadan.

Such obstacles and challenges were mainly related to the structure of the assessment methodology itself on one hand, and to the limited access to information on the other.

The overall format design of the assessment addresses several society groups, including persons with disabilities, women, children, youth, migrant workers and their families, religious minorities while the anticipated output of the assessment in Lebanon is intended to narrow down the review course of action to persons with disabilities, particularly to young PWD. The methodology is certainly useful in understanding a general context of the social inclusion, but its use is limited in elaborating policies targeting specific rights-holders' groups. In a policy review in Lebanon, the limited time and resources had to be evenly divided while trying to comprehend the status of all the above-mentioned society groups, rather than converging all efforts on the young PWD.

The second obstacle is related to the methodology and its complexity of the questions raised within the thematic area. In fact, most of the questions were elaborated, likely based on the assumption that existing laws and regulations may reflect an inclusive right-holder approach. However, in the case of a country such as Lebanon where, despite the progress made in the last decade to improve means of access to information (e.g. government information stop shop), the regulatory and policy frameworks requested to be reviewed at "question level" yet require combining data from a multiple sources of information, a matter that makes data collection harder to be achieved in a comprehensive and holistic approach. Science, communication and information, in addition to civic and political participation were the most demanding in this regard. Depending on the each country's context, time allocation needs to be reviewed. For example, in the section related to "Science", and in order to respond to underlying questions related to "Existence of legislation regulating SETI activities across various policy areas (e.g. S&T; Industry; Education, Agriculture, Health, Energy, Environment, Culture)" or "Existence of national laws on SETI recognizing explicitly promoting equal access to benefits of the most disadvantaged", it was unavoidable to read all the legal texts made

available at the sectoral ministries, in order to provide the most accurate answer. This issue was repeatedly met throughout the exercise.

In the absence of a single thematic source of information, the assessment necessitated gathering of figures and facts from documents and references of public administrations and nongovernmental associations. Beside the limited amount of information compiled from the answers of ministries, national centres, and nongovernmental organizations, most of the data referred to in the assessment are based upon official reports and nongovernmental documentations found online (such as government portals). The margin of error in the reported data may vary between thematic areas, as no proper validation has been made from the concerned public administrations.

As for the focus groups, and because of the lack of a single institution, whether governmental or non-governmental, in charge of a portfolio relevant to a thematic area, it was a challenge in convening the meetings, especially during the summer time. It was easier to organize the focus groups from the right-holder perspective: women, persons with disabilities, children and youth, and migrant workers and their families.

A key observation resulting out of the focus group meetings is the lack of knowledge among several active nongovernmental organizations about the existence of the portals (such as www.informs.gov.lb), legislative instruments and national policies. Accordingly, it becomes of utmost importance for the Lebanese government to undertake an extensive informative campaign targeting the Lebanese population at large, and the civil society groups in particular. This step is thought to improve the collaborative efforts among the public and civil society sectors.

II. Definition of Social Inclusion in Lebanon

Concepts such as “inclusion”, “exclusion”, “social inclusion” and similar terms were not reported to explicitly figure in national laws, regulations and other public policies, although Lebanese texts do not neither embrace any discriminatory insinuation. It is believed that the introduction of such terms came as a result of an increasing awareness and advocacy for fulfilling the provisions of the international human rights-related treaties to which Lebanon has already adhered to, or is in the process of endorsement.

First, it is important to underline that the Lebanese Constitution (1926 and its amendments) sets down a number of non-discriminatory principles. Its Preamble states that “*Lebanon is a democratic parliamentary republic, founded on the respect of public freedoms, especially the freedom of opinion and belief, on social justice, and equality in rights and duties among all citizens, without discrimination or preference*”. Article 7 of the Constitution affirms that “*all Lebanese are equal before the law, do equally enjoy civil and political rights and assume their public obligations and duties without any distinction*”. Article 12 of the Constitution calls for the right of every Lebanese to “*hold public office without giving advantage to one over the other, but only in terms of merit according to the conditions provided for by law*”. Of equal significance is also the point “b” of the Preamble- added to the Constitution text following its amendment in 1990- that indicates a noteworthy credence through which Lebanon affirms its positioning as “*a founding and active member of the Arab League and is committed to its charters, as a founding and active member of the United Nations Organization and committed to its charters and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Government embodies these principles in all rights and areas without exception*”; a commitment that underlines an obligation to implement the provisions set in the international treaties the Lebanese Government is bound to.

A thorough reading and appraisal of the accessible legislative texts in the thematic areas of relevance to UNESCO (education, culture, science, communication and information, civic and political participation) demonstrate that the wording language is addressed to the Lebanese citizen in general, with no specific reference to a particular society group or stratum. The expression “marginalized group(s)” is not found either.

On the other hand few strategies have included social inclusion as an explicit objective of its social, educational or economic development.

The Five-Year National Social Development Strategy (2011) prepared by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) endeavors to incorporate “social inclusion” as one of the two dimensions¹ it aims to achieve: “*The strategy aims at fostering social inclusion through promoting equity, ensuring a decent standard of living and providing equitable access to the most important assets in society*”. In addition to the universal approach, the Strategy has also adopted the targeted approach which focuses on social inclusion through *improving the access of selected groups to basic social rights: (1) Improving access to basic infrastructure and quality social services, (2) Ensuring equitable access to productive assets and employment opportunities, and (3) Expanding social protection mechanisms*.

The National Educational Strategy (2006) prepared by the Lebanese Association for Educational Studies states in its vision that “*Education in Lebanon is available on the basis of equal opportunity; education that has good quality and contributes to building an information society, to social integration, and to economic development*”. Social inclusion (or integration) is explicitly mentioned in the Strategy as per the following:

¹ The National Social Development Strategy strives for two dimensions: Integration in the national economic policy, and social inclusion (Page 3).

Education that Contributes to Social Integration (through):

- *Education that develops citizenship in its three dimensions: National identity, civic participation, and human partnership;*
- *Education that contributes to social cohesion and provides learners with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed for living together in a diverse society;*
- *Education that contributes to social mobility: horizontally, among geographical locations and vertically, among social strata;*
- *Education that contributes to the social inclusion of dropouts and individuals marginalized inside the school as well as to the prevention of social marginalization.*

Defining “social inclusion” was also raised during the focus group meetings that were held at UNESCO, on 29 and 30 July 2013 to collect feedback of participants on the national public policies from a right-holder perspective.

Indeed, the focus group on women and gender defined “social inclusion” as the opportunity to integrate in the community, whether in a systematic or non-systematic manner, both in culture and laws, based on equal access to opportunities and the capacity to be represented in all areas of the society without being subject to economic, ethnic, or sexual discrimination. According to participants, there are no policies, laws or legislation in Lebanon that deal with social inclusion. Lebanese legislation does not reflect discrimination neither stresses on equality from the inclusion point of view. Finally, there is no legislative text that clearly presents the “inclusion” concept, and there is a great reluctance and non-diligence from politicians to develop, introduce and apply this concept at the legal level².

The focus group on migrant workers and their families said that “social inclusion (and exclusion)” have two dimensions: a legal dimension and a second dimension linked to moral and humanity values. Sometimes the culture that a population holds may embed social inclusion or exclusion based on social status, colour or nationality. Laws should be developed to regulate this disparity³.

The focus group on children and youth highlighted that inclusion means introducing young people to the community, providing equal opportunities to all community groups in order to participate in the society, guaranteeing all the rights of children and youth are fulfilled, and finally enabling youth. According to the participants in the focus group, a number of laws tackle issues of relevance to children and youth such as the labor law, the juvenile protection law, and the education-related laws; but there is no law that addresses the age category 18-24 years, as the prevailing laws do not differentiate between young and adult. For instance, the Penal Code punishes an 18-year old young person on a misdemeanor; however this same young person is entitled to vote only when s/he is 21 years old⁴.

• ***Recommendations from the focus group meetings***

Some recommendations came out as a result of two focus groups, which are worth to highlight.

Regarding women and gender:

- To modify the educational curriculum to eliminate discrimination.
- To increase awareness about the rights from early school levels.
- To efficiently implement the Law for free and compulsory education for children below 15 years.

² Focus group on women and gender, UNESCO, 29 July 2013.

³ Focus Group on migrant workers, UNESCO, 30 July 2013.

⁴ Focus Group on migrant workers, UNESCO, 29 July 2013.

- To apply and reinforce the laws that aim at protecting women.
- To work on a unified and clear definition of the “citizen”.
- To train teachers on the application of international standards and equality.

More specific recommendations related to “women and gender” were also highlighted as part of the online consultation review⁵:

- To increase awareness about women rights from early school levels and raise essential topics such as gender discrimination, non violent communication, dating violence, child sexual abuse, etc.
- To apply and reinforce the laws that aim at protecting women through advocacy and regular campaigns focusing on different rights:
 - Law to protect women from domestic violence (c/o: www.kafa.org.lb law campaign)
 - Law of the Nationality
 - Personal Status Law: custody, divorce, etc.
 - Political representation: Quota
- To work on fighting against racism towards migrant workers, refugees and displaced population and more specifically Gender Based Violence (GBV) of Syrian women.
- To campaign for the abolishment of the sponsorship system for migrant domestic workers.
- To train teachers on how to detect GBV cases and highlight on the referral system.
- To introduce media in the GBV field work.
- To raise awareness on women’s rights in the global society.

⁵ Rima Abi Nader, KAFA Association.

III. Assessment of “Inclusiveness” in public policies in Lebanon

The assessment on the “level of inclusiveness in public policies” is structured into six sections. In addition to a brief outline on the human right-related conventions and treaties, UNESCO chose to explore five thematic areas of significance to its directives. The thematic areas are: (1) education, (2) science, (3) culture, (4) communication and information, and (5) civic and political participation. Each of these areas embraces a broad analysis of the associated international conventions (including the government position regarding their signature, ratification, rejection, or other) in addition to national legislative and policy framework (including constitution, sectoral laws, decrees, decisions, strategies, other).

The assessment highlights the progress made in the public policies from the standpoint of the following human right-based holders: (1) migrant workers and their families, (2) women, (3) persons with disabilities, (4) children and youth, and (5) religious minorities.

The full methodology in English and Arabic is in the annex of this report.

(1) UN Human Rights Treaties

International and regional human rights instruments are given a central place in a human rights framework. Among the plethora of such instruments, the provisions of core UN human rights treaties are relevant to all five policy areas covered by the present policy review.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES			
	YES	NO	Comments
Has the State ratified the following instruments and the optional protocols thereto:			
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights If yes: - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments? If not, please explain the reasons why specific instruments were not ratified?	YES		Lebanon joined in 3 June 1972
	Decree Law No. 3855, dated 01.09.1972 articles 2, 3, 18, 23, 26 and 27 No reservations were reported.		
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights If yes: - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments? If not, please explain the reasons why specific instruments were not ratified?	YES		Ratification on 3 November 1972
	No reservations were reported.		
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination If yes: - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order	YES		Accession on 12 November 1971
	Reservations: Lebanon does not consider itself bound by Article 22 under which any dispute between 2 or more state parties with respect to the interpretation or application of the Convention is at the request of any Party to the dispute, to be referred to the International Court of Justice for		

<p>Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments? If not, please explain the reasons why specific instruments were not ratified?</p>	<p>decision, and it states that in each individual case, the consent of all State parties to such as dispute is necessary for referring the dispute to International Court of Justice.</p>		
<p>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women If yes: - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order</p> <p>Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments? If not, please explain the reasons why specific instruments were not ratified?</p>	<p>YES</p>		<p>Accession on April 16, 1997</p>
<p><u>National instruments:</u> The most concrete indicator related to the Lebanese Government paying attention to women issues remain the Law no. 572, dated July 24, 1996, which paved the way for accession to CEDAW. With Lebanon becoming signatory to the Convention in 1997, it has become easier to highlight and raise issues of women and their human rights in the Lebanese political life. In 2005, and for the first time, the Ministerial Declaration states that the Government "<i>will focus on the issues of women as major and effective partners in public life by bringing in the legal climate conducive to the reinforcement of their role in various sectors. It will also implement all the commitments of Lebanon by virtue of the recommendations produced by the 4th World Beijing Summit in 1995 on women issues</i>". In 2008, the Government pledged to carry on the consolidation of women's role in public life and their participation in the financial, economic, social and political areas and to implement the commitments as set out in international conventions namely CEDAW. By the end of 2009, the Government ministerial declaration pledged that "it will endeavor to adopt a plan to combat violence against women, including discussing the draft law relating to the protection of women from domestic violence and to come up with policies and legislation to combat women and children trafficking for sexual abuse and forced labor. This commitment was partially fulfilled with the adoption of the Cabinet of the draft law on protection of women from domestic violence. Yet, the Parliament did not endorse it.</p> <p><u>Reservations:</u> The Lebanese State ratified the CEDAW Convention in July 1996, however with reservations on some of its articles (paragraph 2 of</p>			

	<p>Article 9 relating to nationality, and items (c) and (d), (f) and (g) of paragraph (a) of Article 16, which is related to giving women equal rights and responsibilities: (1) during marriage and at its dissolution, (2) as a parent, irrespective of her marital status, in matters relating to her children; (3) with regard to guardianship, trusteeship and adoption of children, or similar social institutional systems, where these concepts exist in national legislation; (4) equal personal rights as husband and wife, including the right to choose a family name, a profession and an occupation.</p> <p>These reservations have diluted the significance and spirit of the Convention, in particular what is related to the first article of the Convention, which specifies the term "discrimination against women" as "any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of the recognition of women, on the basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic and social, cultural, civil or any other field, or affects women's recognition of this enjoyment or exercise by regardless of their marital status. "</p>		
<p>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities If yes: - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order</p> <p>Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments? If not, please explain the reasons why specific instruments were not ratified?</p>	<p>YES</p>		<p>Signed on 14 June 2007; not ratified until today</p>
<p>Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) If yes: - Please mention the laws whereby the above</p>	<p>YES</p>		<p>Signed on 26 January 1990 and ratified in 1991.</p>

<p>instruments were transposed into the national legal order</p> <p>Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments?</p> <p>If not, please explain the reasons why specific instruments were not ratified?</p>	<p>The legislative texts in Lebanon are in conformity with the stipulation of article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), in which a child is defined as every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.</p> <p>Article 4 of the Civil Code (1951) states that the age of majority is 18 years. The Lebanese Penal Code stipulates that measures will be taken against anyone who attempts to abuse a child sexually or through pushing him/her to deal with drugs in any form. Any criminal who commits these acts with a minor under the age of 12 or 15 can get a jail sentence of 3-15 years (art. 119); criminal proceedings cannot be brought against any minor under 7 years of age.</p> <p>(iii) No child under 18 years of age may be separated from his/her family (Decree 119); anyone who separates a child under 12 from his/her parents or guardian is subject to punishment by imprisonment (art. 495). The Lebanese Penal Code further includes the following definitions (art. 31 of Decree No. 112): (a) A juvenile is every male or female over 7 and under 12 years of age; (b) An adolescent is every person over 12 and under 15 years of age; (c) A young person is every male or female between 15 and 18 years of age.</p> <p>Articles 22 and 23 of the Labor Code impose the following restrictions on the employment of children: (a) No child under 8 is allowed to engage in formal employment; (b) No child under 13 is allowed to engage in heavy industrial or other demanding work (the activities are specified); (c) No child between 13 and 16 is allowed to engage in physically taxing jobs unless he/she has obtained a certificate from a doctor confirming his/her ability to do so.</p>		
<p>International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families</p> <p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order <p>Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments?</p> <p>If not, please explain the reasons why specific instruments were not ratified?</p>		NO	
	<p>No reasons were reported to exist regarding the abstention of Lebanon towards joining this Convention.</p>		

(2) Education

The right to education has been recognized by regional and international human rights standard-setting instruments. The 1960 UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education is not only about preventing and eradicating discrimination in education, but it is also about facilitating the fulfillment of the right to education for all.⁶ The General Comment No. 13 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the right to education proposes a typology of the goals for the full realization of the right to education.⁷ Education should be available, accessible, acceptable and adaptable.⁸ Accessibility requires the State to ensure that there is no discrimination and that education is physically and economically accessible for all, especially for the more vulnerable groups. It also presupposes that ample information is provided so that rights-holders can take enlightened decisions and are able to exercise and claim their rights. Acceptability requires enforcing minimum standards and quality in teaching staff and methods, and that the education provided is culturally appropriate. Education should be flexible and adaptable to meet the many and changing demands and needs of contemporary society.

⁶ UNESCO *Convention against Discrimination in Education*, arts. 5 c, 5 v and 7.

⁷ CESCR, General Comment 13, 1999, UN Doc E/C 12/1999/10.

⁸ CESCR, General Comment 13, 2005.

RATIFICATION OF SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS			
	YES	NO	Comments
Has the State ratified the following international treaties:	YES		
1. The UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (CADE)? (yes/no)	YES		Ratified on 27/10/ 1964
2. ILO's Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169? (yes/no)		NO	
<p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order - Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments? 	<p>Comments/Responses: Lebanon endorsed several laws governing the right to education for citizens, such as the Legislative Decree No. 134 dated 06.12.1959 which provides the right for "free education", and the law No. 686 dated 16/03/1998 endorsing the principle of compulsory and free of charge primary education; however, the decrees of those texts have not been issued until to date. Lebanon also recognizes the right of learning for person with disabilities under the Law relating to the rights persons with disabilities No. 220, issued in 2000.</p> <p>Other relevant laws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law no. 998 dated 10/2/1965 which provides the right to education for prisoners and the appointment of teachers for education and guidance inside prisons by the Ministry of Education; - Circular of the Director General of Education (2013) regarding the establishment of a center for holding the official examinations inside Roumieh Prison; - The Ministry of Education and Higher Education draft decree to organize and regulate education in prisons, including appointing teachers for this purpose. <p>In addition, a number of decrees were issued: the Education Improvement Plan (1994), and the New Educational Structure (1995) and the new educational curriculum (1997). No reservations were reported.</p>		
If not, please explain the reasons why specific instruments were not ratified?	Comments/Responses:		
Has the State ratified any regional instruments recognizing the right to education? (yes/no)		NO	

Has the State ratified any regional instruments relating to education? (yes/no)		NO	
	<p>Lebanon is one of the countries that signed the Declaration on education to all (Thailand, 1990). The principles of the Declaration are mainstreamed into the National Educational Plan for Persons with Disabilities that was launched in January 2012, which stresses upon providing special attention to the learning needs of persons with disabilities, and taking the necessary measures to ensure equal access to all categories of disabilities as part of the educational system. It is to note that Lebanon (as a member of the League of Arab States) has not endorsed until today the Arab Charter on the Rights of the Child (dated 06/12/1983), which stresses upon confirming and ensuring the child's right to free learning and education at least in the pre-school and primary education phases on the grounds that education is the cornerstone for a lasting change and the acquisition of skills and abilities that would enable the child to face new attitudes in renewable knowledge, and to get rid from the non-functional values and negative traditions. Lebanon did not ratify the Arab Charter on Human Rights (2008).</p>		
UNIVERSAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECLARATIONS (SOFT LAW)			
Have the content and principles contained in the instruments listed below been explicitly incorporated/integrated into national laws and / or regulations?	YES	NO	Comments
Universal Declaration of Human Rights	YES		The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an integral part of the Lebanese Constitution text.
Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training	YES		The Lebanese Constitution explicitly states that education is a right for every citizen, and the state guarantees this right to all, for different ages as well as for social and professional strata. The Decree Law no. 10227 (new curriculum on public pre-university education) that was prepared by the Center for Educational Research and Development (CERD) embeds the Constitution principles. In addition, though the Declaration on human rights education and training was adopted in 2011, principles related to human rights education and training are integrated within the National Education Strategy (developed in 2006, currently under review) and the National Educational Plan for Persons with Disabilities (2012).

Declaration on the Right to Development			<p>Although this Declaration is not a binding legal instrument, however Lebanon is a signatory to the Declaration on human rights education and training, which calls for the Right to Development. In addition, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) prepared a plan for the development of the educational sector, which was approved for implementation by the Council of Ministers on 23 April 2010. The National Strategy for Education and Learning is based on the fundamental principles enshrined in the Lebanese Constitution and the laws that govern the education and learning sector, which emphasize upon the freedom and the right to education for all and ensure equal opportunities for learning. The Plan is also based upon the principles of international conventions, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Convention on the Rights of The child. Also the MEHE developed the National Strategy for Education, which was based on the key educational principles agreed upon in the recommendations of international and Arab conferences on Education in guiding the learning process towards the overall development of the human personality, and the commitment to a wide community partnership among stakeholders concerned by the educational sector in order to ensure the learning needs and build a knowledge-based society.</p>
Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers		NO	<p>The National Education Strategy responds partially to the recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, particularly for it concerns the training. However, other rights such as recruitment, advancement and promotion, disciplinary procedures, social security, responsibilities and rights, and others are subject to laws and regulations regulating the public sector employees. It is to note that the National Social Development Strategy (MOSA, 2011) pointed out to the "low levels of student achievement in public schools, which is directly related to the inadequate qualifications of many of the teaching and</p>

			administrative staff working in schools, and to the lack of a good fit between teacher area of specialization and teaching assignment requirements within schools and in the regions. Furthermore, the misallocation, and oversupply, of teaching and administrative staff is acute and especially so in the public sector. Teacher/student ratios are among the lowest in the region. Overall, the pupil/teacher ratio in public schools (7.7) is lower than that in private schools (11.5). Salaries and wages constitute 87% of MEHE's total spending and the average human resource expenditure per student per year is estimated to be \$1,568. There is little coordination between pre-service and in-service training offered to teachers. There is a need to develop a system of certification to the teachers who have accomplished their trainings, as well as the development of standards for hiring basic education teachers. The public education system does not have an effective mechanism for evaluating and upgrading the performance of the teaching staff and would benefit from a performance-based incentives system that would improve teacher professionalism through recognition and reward".
Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples		NO	
Revised Recommendation concerning Technical and Vocational Education		NO	The National Education Strategy (2007) included recommendations concerning the technical and vocational education, however not yet translated into legislations neither action plan.
Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel		NO	The National Education Strategy (2007) included recommendations concerning the higher education teaching personnel, however not yet translated into legislations neither action plan
Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms		NO	

International Charter on Physical Education and Sport	YES		As part of the new national educational plan, the Center for Educational Research and Development (CERD) of the MEHE stresses upon physical education and sport as an educational mean that contributes to the development process of the community, through providing educational and youth services and activities. It also calls for activating the role of the school and its openness, by establishing, encouraging and providing support to school clubs. The plan also emphasizes on the importance of educational cooperation between the school administration and the community, and for engaging parents, and for introducing sports and cultural clubs in school activities. The new educational structure in Lebanon also emphasizes on supporting and strengthening physical education and sports in schools through dedicating two hours per week in all classes and stages.
CONSTITUTION			
Explicit inclusion of education as a human right in the Constitution	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Fully met. The Lebanese Constitution (dated 1926 and its amendments) affirms in its Preamble (point b) that Lebanon is a founding and active member of the UN Organization and committed to its charters and to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the State embodies these principles in all of the rights and areas without exception. In article 10 of this constitution, it is said that education is free provided it does not affect public order or morals, neither encroach on the dignity of religions or sects; the rights of communities are secured to create their own schools, as per the prevailing regulations issued by the State regarding public knowledge.		
If so, a. Is the provision of universal education a directive principle of State policy? (yes/no) -for universal primary education?	Comments/Responses: In line with the recommendations of Dakar Conference “Education to all”, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education aims at ensuring a seat for each child in elementary school level. For this purpose the Educational Center for Research and Development (CERD) developed a strategy that extends until 2015. The National Education Strategy (2006) reflects the Government policy for education, which		

<p>(yes/no) -for universal secondary education? (yes/no)</p> <p>b. Does the Constitution make higher education equally accessible to all on the basis of capacity? (yes/no)</p> <p>c. Does the Constitution make technical and vocational training and adult education equally accessible to all? (yes/no)</p> <p>d. Does the Constitution specify (whether implicitly or explicitly) the right of access to education (primary, secondary and higher education,) without discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other</p>	<p>states the following: <i>“Education should give everyone, including learners with special needs, equal opportunity for enrollment, for educational continuation and for success. An education characterized by the high quality of its curricula, institutions, and outcomes; an education that is aligned with national and international standards; education oriented towards the development of knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed for handling information and the intensive use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT); education that develops the general education of individuals and provides them with critical thinking skills and moral reasoning, enabling them to live and work in a modern, changing society and to become lifelong learners; an education that contributes to social cohesion and provides learners with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed for living together in a diverse society; an education that contributes to social mobility: horizontally, among geographical locations and vertically, among social strata; an education that contributes to the social inclusion of dropouts and individuals marginalized inside the school as well as to the prevention of social marginalization”</i>. The National Education Strategy also reflects the State policy for education, which adopts, among other principles, the universal primary education. Accordingly it states that <i>“pre-school education is available to children aged 3-5; and basic education is compulsory until the age of 12”</i>.</p> <p>The Constitution does not specifically refer to equal accessibility to higher education on the basis of capacity, it rather stresses upon the freedom to education in general terms. However, such principle is embodied in the National Education Strategy, which also states that <i>“higher education (including technical education) should be equally accessible and organized in a manner that allows for academic mobility among its various sectors and institutions, provides support for students, and adapts to new trends and student needs”</i>.</p> <p>The Constitution does not specifically refer neither to equal accessibility related to vocational and technical training and adult education; it rather stresses upon the freedom to education. However, principles related to technical and vocational training figure among the key objectives and future actions of the National Education Strategy.</p> <p>The Lebanese Constitution affirms explicitly in its preamble that Lebanon is a democratic parliamentary republic, established on the basis of respect for public freedoms especially the freedom of opinion and belief, on social justice and equality in rights and duties among all citizens, without discrimination or preference. The preamble also states that education is a right for all, provided it does not affect public order or morals, nor affect the dignity of religions or sects; the rights of communities are secured to create their own schools, as per the prevailing regulations issued by the State regarding public knowledge. Accordingly, it can be understood</p>
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<p>opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status? (yes/no)</p>	<p>that the Constitution implicitly refers to the right of access to education without any discrimination.</p>
<p>e. Is there a specific mention of the rights of minorities, indigenous peoples, migrants, persons living with HIV/AIDS and persons with disabilities to education? (yes/no)</p>	<p>The Constitution does not differentiate among community groups; it rather gives citizens equal access to education. However, the National Education Strategy (2006) stresses further on the right of persons with disabilities; it also refers to education that contributes to the social inclusion of dropouts and individuals marginalized inside the school as well as to the prevention of social marginalization.</p>
<p>f. Are persons with disabilities entitled to access the general education system on an equal basis with others? yes</p>	<p>The Law 220/2000 (Rights of Persons with Disabilities) affirms the right to access education for the persons with disabilities (PWD). Despite the fact that the Law was developed 13 years ago, the majority of schools, at least public schools, are still not fit to accommodate and consequently integrate students with disabilities. Deficiencies are related to the unavailability of necessary facilities, mainly in terms of proper equipment, buildings, special teaching aids, and qualified special education educators. These special procedures, in addition to others concerned by the education of persons with special needs, require competent and procedural decisions as well as a unified educational reference in order to standardize the educational decision. Even though there are a modest number of initiatives in this regard, such initiatives lack proper follow-up and expansion. In 2012, CERD and the MEHE launched the National Educational Plan for persons with disabilities. As stated in its introduction, this plan intends to facilitate the process of integrating persons with disabilities in regular schools and classes. The plan came also as a response to the gaps identified in the law 220/2000 that has not been translated yet into executive decrees and decisions, with the exception of the issuance of the Decree No. 16614, which exempts outstanding students from following up the curricular years in the stages of pre-university education; the Decree 16417 also determines cases of exemption from the official exams for persons with learning difficulties.</p>
<p>g. Is the constitutional provision recognizing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the right to establish private educational institutions? 	<p>The Decree Law no. 9533 dated 17/12/2012 defines the situation of students with special needs regarding the official examinations of Intermediate classes, and the formation of a committee that shall study the portfolio of each student (article1) according to this decree, examination centers shall be equipped to host students with different sort of disabilities, including students with medical cases (e.g. cancer, thalassemia). Another decision was made by the Minister of Education and Higher Education no.320/M/2011 to apply the school inclusion in a number of public schools.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the rights of parents and when applicable, legal guardians, to choose for their children schools other than those established by the public authorities, which conform to minimum educational standards? <p>h. Are the form and the substance of education directed towards the aims and objectives identified in Article 5.1 of UNESCO's Convention against Discrimination in Education, in Article 13 of the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child? (yes/no)</p>	<p>The Constitution guarantees the rights of communities to create their own schools, as per the prevailing regulations issued by the State regarding public knowledge. As is the case of the Decree Law no. 1436, amended through Decree/Law no.9408 dated 15/10/1996 regarding the establishment of private schools. It is to note that the private sector remains the main provider for basic education in Lebanon. The total number of students in basic education for the year 2004-2005 was 650,666, among whom 37% were enrolled in public schools, 14% in subsidized private schools, and 49% in non-free private schools.</p> <p>The Constitution does not specifically refer to the recognition of the rights of parents- and where applicable of legal guardians- to choose for their children the schools other than those established by the Public Authorities. However the laws regulating the education sector guarantee such right, i.e., the rights for parents to choose a private, semi-private or public schools. In addition, a large percentage of citizens believe that public schools provide poor education, in terms of quality particularly related to foreign languages, and therefore refer their children to private schools recognized for their high educational standards.</p> <p>Lebanon is a signatory to the Convention against Discrimination in Education, the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Besides, the preamble of the Constitutional text stresses on Lebanon commitment to Human Rights related treaties. It is worth noting that the education sector was subject to a reform both in its form and its substance, resulting in the application of the New curriculum, and the development of the National Education Strategy, The Education Improvement Plan, and The National Educational Plan for Persons with Disabilities.</p> <p>Legal texts of relevance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decree-law no.8924 dated 21/9/2012 regarding the general and specific goals in addition to implementation mechanisms for the execution of the project "Service of the Society" in the secondary education system; <p>Law no. 211 dated 30/3/2012, which allows the Ministry of Education and Higher the free distribution of school books to kindergarten and essential education classes.</p>
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Recognition in the Constitution of human rights relating to education without discrimination	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the freedom indispensable for scientific research and creative activity • right to freedom of opinion and expression, including the right to seek, receive and impart information • right to freedom of association with others • right of peaceful assembly • right of everyone lawfully within the territory of a State to liberty of movement within the territory of that State • right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications <p>Does the constitution provide for limitations to the exercise of these rights? If yes, does it specify the conditions under which such limitations apply?</p> <p>Is any of the following grounds a valid basis for restricting the exercise of the above-listed rights: race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, HIV-positive status, birth or other status?</p>	<p>Comments: Partially met, though Education without discrimination is fully recognized by the Constitution.</p>		
	<p>The Constitution does not specifically refer to the freedom of scientific research; however, research and academic institutions in Lebanon do enjoy a freedom in their scientific research activities.</p> <p>The Constitution guarantees the freedom of opinion and expression. It also guarantees the right to freedom of associations with others. Such right is also guaranteed by the prevailing laws such as Law 1909 (Law of NGOs). The right of peaceful assembly is also ensured.</p> <p>The Constitution does not specifically refer to the right of liberty of movement; however, the prevailing laws and regulations guarantee for the citizens and residents in Lebanon such lawful right.</p> <p>The Constitution does not specifically refer to the scientific research and progress; however, research, academic and medical institutions in Lebanon do have the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.</p> <p>Any limitations exercised to any of the above-mentioned rights can be related to a violation or breach to the prevailing laws, or that may affect the national security.</p>		

LEGISLATION			
Explicit recognition of the right to education	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Fully met. The Lebanese Legislation recognizes the right to education of all citizens and residents.		
Does national legislation explicitly recognize education as a human right? (y/n)	Comments/Responses: The Constitution explicitly recognizes, in its Preamble, the education as a human right, and accordingly, all laws and policies related to education do recognize education as a human right.		
Making at least primary education compulsory	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Partially met. Primary education in Lebanon extends to grade 9 which corresponds to age 15. Compulsory education, according to Law No. 686 (16/3/1998), stops at age of 12 years old. However, this law is yet to be applied.		
If there is legislation making education compulsory, specify the ages and/or number of years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory beginning at age: • Compulsory ending at age: • Compulsory for _ years: 	Comments/Responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory beginning at age: 6 years • Compulsory ending at age: 12 years • Compulsory for _ years: 6 years 		
Is there legislation making, at least, primary education compulsory? (yes/no)	Law no. 686 dated 16/3/1998 (Article 49) of the MEHE states that free and compulsory education is the right of every Lebanese in the primary school age.		
	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Partially met. Law no. 686 dated 16/3/1998 (Article 49) of the MEHE states that free and compulsory education is the right of every Lebanese in the primary school age. Primary education is made free of charge. A number of decisions were undertaken by the MEHE to enable all society groups to enroll to education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Decision No. 47 dated 18/2/2003 to exempt public school students in the kindergarten and basic education from the registration fees in public schools for that year; - A decree issued by the MEHE at the beginning of the academic year 2006/2007 to exempt all 		

<p>Making primary education free for all</p>	<p>students enrolled in public schools in various stages of public education from registration fees and the price of textbooks;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A decision issued by the MEHE to register a child coming from a private school which refrained from giving this child a school certificate due to a non-payment of full tuition fees; - A decision issued by the MEHE in the academic year 2004/2005 to accept the registration of non-Lebanese students residing in Lebanese territory in public schools. This was a first decision of its kind, which refers to the right of non-Lebanese residents to register in public schools because that right was confined to the Lebanese.
<p>Is there legislation making primary education free for all? (yes/no)</p> <p>Is there legislation expressly prohibiting local governments or schools from charging supplementary fees for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books? (yes/no) • School supplies? (yes/no) • Uniforms? (yes/no) • Construction or maintenance of school buildings?(yes/no) • Teachers' salaries? (yes/no) <p>Is there legislation providing for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School meals (yes/no) • School supplies (yes/no) • School transportation (yes/no) 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>Law no. 686 dated 16/3/1998 (Article 49) of the MEHE states that free and compulsory education is the right of every Lebanese in the primary school age.</p> <p>Lebanon has 3 types of books: (a) books of the public schools published by the Educational Center for Research and Development (CERD) of the MEHE, and these books are mandatory for the public schools; (b) books issued by private Lebanese publishing houses, and (3) foreign books which are imported from Europe and the United States. Foreign books are priced in Euros or in Dollars and they are sold in Lebanon as in foreign libraries. Books issued by local publishing houses have maintained their prices since a number of years. The Ministry of Economy and Trade monitors the sale of books and school supplies and stationery both in schools and libraries in accordance with the Decision No. 236/1 /A.T. dated 10/8/2004 related to the organization and sale of school books, as well as the 2 circulars No. 1/1 / A. T. dated 1/10/2009 date and No. 209/1 / A.T. dated 10/10/2009 related to not to compel students to buy books and stationery from schools.</p> <p>The Ministry of Economy and Trade monitors the sale of books and school supplies and stationery both in schools and libraries in accordance with the Decision No. 236/1 /A.T. dated 10/8/2004 related to the organization and sale of school books, as well as the 2 circulars No. 1/1 / A. T. dated 1/10/2009 date and No. 209/1 / A.T. dated 10/10/2009 related to not to compel students to buy books and stationery from schools.</p>

<p>Establishment of a right of access to grants/scholarships/credits/loans for students</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the criteria for receiving such allocations? • Are there quotas for persons belonging to disadvantaged groups? • Are persons with disabilities (PWD) explicitly mentioned? 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>Each type of institutions has its own criteria for granting allocations. No quotas are reported to apply to disadvantaged groups, with the exception of the Law 220/2000 (Rights of PWD), which states in article 60 (point "f") that institutions in charge of studying schools and universities' grants in all areas shall give an absolute priority to grant requests formulated by persons with disabilities for disabled persons holders of the disability cards.</p>		
<p>Recognition of equality in terms of access to public educational institutions and programmes</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>Is there legislation expressly prohibiting discrimination in terms of access to</p>	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>Beside the Constitutional text, Article 60 (adherence to educational institutions) of the Law 220/2000 (Rights of PWD) clearly prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability as per the following: "The "disability" does not constitute in itself an obstacle of any kind, to adhere or request access to any learning or educational institution, whether public or private. Accordingly, it is considered cancelled by virtue any text that requires for the purpose of enrollment or access to any educational institution or a public or private education of any kind, conditions such as</p>		

<p>public educational institutions and programmes on the basis of: race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status?</p>	<p>healthy physical structure or disability or handicap or illness or other similar expressions". It is worth noting that the Higher Council for Childhood (HCC) is collaborating with the Center for Legal studies in the Arab World (CEDROMA - USJ) to propose amendments to the law 220/2000, in order to achieve compliance with the provisions of the International Convention on the Rights of PWD. Proposed amendments target articles 59 to 63 related to quality of education and educational services.</p>								
<p>Existence of specific provisions in the law on the right of persons with disabilities to education</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Fully met</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Partially met</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Not met</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"> <p>Comments: Fully met. The Law 220/2000 (Rights of Disabilities) specifies in its 7th Chapter (the right of person with disabilities in education and sport) that every person with disability has the right to education, in other words the law guarantees equal opportunities for education for all persons with disabilities, children and adults, in all learning or educational institutions, both in general formal schools (classes) and private classes if necessary (article 59).</p> </td> </tr> </table>			Fully met	Partially met	Not met	<p>Comments: Fully met. The Law 220/2000 (Rights of Disabilities) specifies in its 7th Chapter (the right of person with disabilities in education and sport) that every person with disability has the right to education, in other words the law guarantees equal opportunities for education for all persons with disabilities, children and adults, in all learning or educational institutions, both in general formal schools (classes) and private classes if necessary (article 59).</p>		
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<p>Is there legislation introducing the right of persons with disabilities (PWD) to be included in the general educational system?</p> <p>Is there a provision on making the educational institutions and programmes physically accessible to persons with disabilities?</p> <p>Does the law foresee in the case of</p>	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>The Law 220/2000 (Rights of PWD) introduces in its 7th Chapter (the right of PWD in education and sport) the right of PWD to be included in the general educational system by guaranteeing equal opportunities for education for all PWD, children and adults, in all learning or educational institutions, both in general formal schools (classes) and private classes if necessary (article 59).</p> <p>The Law 220/2000 (Rights of PWD) introduces in its 4th Chapter (Rights of PWD in a rehabilitated environment)- articles 33 to 43- provisions related to accessibility of persons with disabilities to educational institutions, among other types of public premises. Article 63 (the Committee specialized in the education of people with disabilities) refers to the mandate of this specialized committee which includes among other to provide support as well as technical, vocational and learning support to institutions willing to host persons with disabilities. The Committee also studies financial requests aiming at providing funds to purchase specialized equipment and technologies.</p> <p>Article 55 (Allocation of housing for persons with disabilities in public housing projects and private gatherings) of the Law 220/2000 (Rights of PWD) refers to the environment of the accommodation settings in general as per the following: Rehabilitated housings are allocated in</p>								

<p>students with disabilities that reasonable accommodation of the individual's requirements is provided? If so, what are the directives provided in this connection?</p> <p>Is there a provision on the granting of effective individualized measures in environments that maximize academic and social development, consistent with the goal of full inclusion</p> <p>Does the legislation make provision for the necessary equipment and support required within the general education system to enable students with disabilities to attend different forms of education without discrimination and on an equal basis with others?</p>	<p>any popular housing project or residential areas developed by the State or any other public entity in accordance with the minimum standards for buildings and facilities in addition to the standards imposed on driveways, parking lots and other public spaces, for the benefit of persons with disabilities, by not less than five percent (5%) of the total housing numbers. Also permanent residential or private seasonal agglomerations are to include housings that are eligible in accordance with the minimum standards for buildings and facilities in addition to the standards imposed on driveways, parking and other public spaces, are to adapted for the use of persons with disabilities, by two percent (2%) of the total number of housing units. This ratio can be increased by a decree issued by the Council of Ministers upon the suggestion of the Minister of Social Affairs (MOSA).</p> <p>Article 63 of the Law 220/2000 (Committee specialized in education) states that he Council of Ministers forms, by virtue of a decree, a committee bringing together all departments, institutions, private and public bodies concerned with education, called "the Committee specialized in the education of persons with disabilities", to be headed by the Director General of the MEHE and includes a member of the National Committee of PWD. Among the tasks of the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to organize all matters relating to the education of children and persons with disabilities, including establishing special units, procedures and techniques, etc., and determining the best conditions that allow students with disabilities to participate in all classes and examinations at all stages of schools, vocational institutions and universities; - to provide technical and educational advice and assistance to all educational institutions that wish to receive persons with disabilities, and to study funding requests for specialized equipment techniques; - to provide the necessary advice and guidance to persons with disabilities in all matters relating to education at all levels. <p>In process. A decision made by the Minister of Education and Higher Education no. 320/M/2011 was issued to implement school inclusion for students with disabilities in a number of public schools.</p>
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	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
Explicit mention of the right to education of disadvantaged groups	Comments: Not met. The term "disadvantaged group" is not mentioned in the Lebanese laws.		
<p>Is there legislation recognizing the right of disadvantaged groups to education? (yes/no)</p> <p>Are these disadvantaged groups identified by the legislation? (yes/no) If so, which ones are they?</p> <p>Is there legislation mandating respect in the educational system for the culture, the language and religious practices of various groups and communities in the society? (yes/no)</p> <p>Is there legislation protecting the right to</p>	Comments/Responses: There is no specific legislation or a text within the Lebanese legislation that identifies 'disadvantaged groups" neither recognizes explicitly the rights of disadvantaged groups to education. However, low cost government schools are available to all, though perceived as of low quality compared to private schools. In addition, a number of decisions were taken by the MEHE to enable all society groups to enroll to education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Decision No. 47 dated 18/2/2003 to exempt public school students in the kindergarten and basic education from the registration fees in public schools for that year; - A decree issued by the MEHE at the beginning of the academic year 2006/2007 to exempt all students enrolled in public schools in various stages of public education from registration fees and the price of textbooks; - A decision issued by the Minister of Education to register a child coming from a private school which refrained from giving this child a school certificate due to a non-payment of full tuition fees; - A decision issued by the Minister of Education in the academic year 2004/2005 to accept the registration of non-Lebanese students residing in Lebanese territory in public schools. This was a first decision of its kind, which refers to the right of non-Lebanese residents to register in public schools because that right was confined to the Lebanese. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law no. 249 dated 9/8/2000 whereby the Higher Relief Commission is entitled to pay the registration fees for students enrolled in public schools (2000-2001); - Law no. 515 dated 6/6/1996 (extended) which obliges the private school owner to assist needy students; - Law no. 32/65 dated 11/6/1965 which allows free schools to benefit from the government financial support within conditions; <p>In addition, it is worth highlighting that the National Poverty Targeting Programme executed through the Ministry of Social Affairs (adopted by the Council of Ministers in 3/11/2011) covers the school registration fees of families benefiting from this programme. This support covers all levels and stages of education.</p>		

<p>education of persons living with HIV/AIDS? (yes/no)</p> <p>Is there legislation prohibiting early marriages (below the age of 16) that would interfere with school attendance? (yes/no)</p> <p>Is there legislation restricting child labor to encourage children to attend school? (yes/no)</p> <p>Is there legislation prohibiting corporal punishment in all establishments? (yes/no)</p>	<p>There is no legislative text that identifies disadvantaged groups and their categories</p> <p>Article 10 of Constitution states that education is free provided it does not affect public order or morals, nor encroach on the dignity of religions or sects; the rights of communities are secured to create their own schools, as per the prevailing regulations issued by the State General regarding public knowledge. Legislative Decree no. 10227 dated 8/5/1997 (Definition of the general educational pre-university and its goals) highlights in many articles such respect for the culture, religious practices of various groups and the society at large.</p> <p>As for languages, the Decree Law no.3550 dated 3/8/2000 allows for substituting German, French or English Languages with Armenian, Italian or Spanish as a second taught language.</p> <p>There is no specific legislation that prohibits early marriages, though Lebanon is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which provides for the prohibition of Child Marriage in Article 16.3. It is also signatory to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (which contains a provision calling for the abolishment of traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children) as well as to the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Nevertheless, early marriage is still witnessed in rural areas of Lebanon due to poverty. Last but not least, the minimum age at which girls can marry is lower than boys in all of Lebanon’s religious courts, which govern personal status affairs such as marriage, divorce, and inheritance.</p> <p>Lebanese employment law is split into two categories, those children aged fewer than fourteen and those aged between fourteen and eighteen. The law categorically prohibits the employment of a child under the age of thirteen and requires a medical certificate proving that a child above thirteen is fit for the job that he is hired to perform (Law No. 422 of 2002, article 26). Lebanese law prohibits the employment of any child under the age of sixteen years in specific types of work deemed harmful or detrimental. Lebanese law also prevents the employment of a child for more than six hours a day and requires that at least one hour of a rest break is given when total working hours exceed four hours per day (article 25). It is worth noting that the Ministry of labor is in the process of amending the laws related to child labor (conf: Head of Combating Child labor Unit / Ministry of Labor).</p>
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	<p>Based on the International Labor Convention, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education is currently working on developing a law to regulate the length (extent) of compulsory school years. In 1998, the act for compulsory and free education for elementary levels was issued. In addition students were exempted from school registration fees in 2001-2002.</p> <p>Corporal punishment is lawful in schools under Article 186 of the Penal Code which states that “the law permits the types of discipline inflicted on children by their parents and teachers as sanctioned by general custom.” Other articles of the Penal Code that are relevant to the protection of children from violence include Articles 500 to 600 as well as Articles 492 and 498. These articles define the act of violence and outline penalties for the various forms of violence. Nevertheless, corporal punishment is still witnessed in some schools and other institutions despite its prohibition by the 2001 Memorandum of the Minister of Education.</p> <p>In 29/7/2008, the Director General of Education issued the circular no. 95 which prohibits all forms of school violence, corporal punishment or psychological punishment or any direct or indirect reprimand/ reproach against the principle of personal dignity.</p>		
<p>Recognition in national law of the right to establish private educational institutions</p>	<p>Fully met Partially met Not met</p>		
<p>Is there legislation expressly recognizing the liberty of individuals and groups to establish and direct educational institutions, subject to the requirement that the education given in such institutions shall conform to such minimum standards as may be laid down by the State? (yes/no)</p>	<p>Comments: Fully met, by virtue of Decree Law no. 1436, amended through Decree/Law no.9408 dated 15/10/1996 regarding the establishment of private schools.</p> <p>Comments/Responses: Decree Law no. 1436, amended through Decree/Law no.9408 dated 15/10/1996 gives individuals and groups the right of freedom to establish and manage private schools. However, the Decree Law no. 1436 (amended through Decree/Law no.9408 dated 15/10/1996) specifies in its article 14 that private institutions do not have the right to use school books not agreed upon by the Minister of Education, including history and geography of Lebanon as well as books of ethical, civil and national issues related to Lebanon.</p> <p>Private schools have the right to choose their own students by law.</p>		

<p>If so, Is there a requirement that such institutions do not discriminate, directly or indirectly, on the basis of any of the prohibited grounds provided for in the Constitution, in the selection of their students? (yes/no)</p> <p>Is there legislation expressly recognizing the right of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to choose for their children schools, other than those established by the public authorities, which conform to the minimum educational standards as may be laid down or approved by the State? (yes/no)</p> <p>Is there legislation expressly recognizing the right of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of children in conformity with their own convictions? (yes/no)</p>	<p>The laws regulating the education sector guarantee such right, i.e., the rights for parents to choose a private, semi-private or public schools. In addition, a large percentage of citizens believe that public schools provide poor education, in terms of quality particularly related to foreign languages, and therefore refer their children to private schools recognized for their high educational standards.</p> <p>The Law no. 11/81 dated 05/13/1981 allows for the establishment of a committee representing the parents of the students in every private non-free school. Another Decree no. 4564 was issued specifying the role of committees of parents in private schools, which includes: monitoring the school fees; monitoring and caring for the affairs of the students and ensuring the best for their interests; securing the best for their education. The parental committees inform the school administration, always according to the same decree, on what is useful for their children through what they observe outside the school, on what is inconsistent with the provisions and rules of the school, in order to remedy inconsistencies when appropriate.</p>		
POLICY FRAMEWORK			
Existence of a national educational strategy and plan of action	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	<p>Comments: Partially met. There is a National Educational Strategy (2006). An action plan is yet to be developed.</p>		
<p>Does the State have a national educational strategy and plan of action? (yes/no)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the national educational strategy include a time line for achieving its goals? (yes/no) 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>In 2006, a national Educational Strategy was developed, which vision is to make education in Lebanon available to all on the basis of equal opportunity; education that has good quality and contributes to building an information society, to social integration, and to economic development.</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the national educational strategy have a monitoring mechanism for assessing the attainment of its goals? (yes/no) <p>If yes, does the national educational strategy and plan of action expressly include the goals of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal, compulsory, and free primary education? (yes/no/not relevant because already achieved the goal) • Progressive introduction of free secondary education? (yes/no/not relevant because already achieved the goal) • Achieving equal access to education for all persons within the State's jurisdiction? (yes/no) <p>Does it include specific mention on including marginalized and disadvantaged groups such as persons with disabilities, members of cultural or linguistic minorities and persons living with HIV/AIDS?</p> <p>Does the State have a policy to ensure vocational and technical education? (yes/no)</p> <p>Does the State policy integrate the EFA goals and the MDG on education? (yes/no)</p>	<p>Expected timeline for achieving its goals is 2015. This Strategy is currently under review. For monitoring purposes, a committee was established composed of Directors General of Education, Higher Education, Vocational and Technical Education, in addition to the Head of the Educational Center for Research and Development (CERD).</p> <p>It is to note that throughout the past few decades, several educational plans have been drafted but not approved. The latest plans that were developed are the following: the Plan for Educational Reform, the 5-year Plan for Reform of Vocational and Technical Education (1998-2002), and the Plan for Education for All. The first plan had been approved but was restricted to general education; its implementation was not done beyond the development of new curricula and new textbooks. The second plan has not been approved; the third plan has been in the development stage for a period of over three years, but has not made it beyond the draft form.</p> <p>The national educational strategy does not have yet a monitoring mechanism for assessing the attainment of its goals.</p> <p>HCC has prepared a national vocational inclusion strategy for disabled children.</p>
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<p>Was civil society consulted when designing the educational strategy? (yes/no)</p> <p>Were parents or associations and representatives of persons with disabilities consulted when designing the educational strategy? (yes/no)</p> <p>Are there policies promoting information literacy competencies within the formal and non-formal education sectors? (yes/no)</p>	<p>Consultation was not inclusive as it was restricted to some civil society groups.</p> <p>A number of associations concerned by the persons with disabilities were consulted in the Educational strategy and the national education plan for PWD. During the preparation of the national vocational inclusion strategy for children with disabilities, the Higher Council for Childhood (HCC) consulted the civil society through continuous meetings held with the "Disabled children committee" of the HCC.</p> <p>A literacy program at the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) provides training to trainers to educate the illiterate persons with disabilities of 15 years of age and above.</p>		
<p>Existence of policies to ensure equality of access and achievement for persons with disabilities (PWD)</p>	<p>Fully met Partially met Not met</p>		
	<p>Comments: Partially met. The CERD of the MEHE prepared a National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities in 2012. Also, the Higher Council for Childhood (HCC) is preparing a national strategy for accessibility of children with disabilities.</p> <p>The Law 220/2000 (Rights of PWD) states in its Article 6 that the Government shall establish a permanent body called the National Commission for the PWD, based at the MOSA, for the purpose of taking care of PWD in all areas including scientific, professional, health and social cooperation between public administrations and the private sector and international institutions. Article 7 defines the mandates of the Commission as per the following: 1 - Preparation of public policies for PWD in coordination with the competent bodies in the public sector, civil society groups and non-governmental bodies; 2 – Contribution to the development of operational programs and plans for such a policy in coordination with the competent public institutions and administrations; 3 - Preparation of draft laws and regulations relating to disability;.4 - Adoption of technical specifications and conditions to be met by institutions working for the PWD, in coordination with the competent departments of the ministry of social affairs. 6 - Prosecution or intervention in any proceedings at any ordinary or extraordinary judicial body in any subject that helps to achieve or defend PWD and their rights.</p>		

	<p>In 2012, an observatory for the rights of PWD was established in Lebanon by the Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union (LPHU) and the MOSA, in partnership with Diakonia and the Legal Agenda. The Observatory aims towards providing updated information on the status of PWD in Lebanon, to lobby against the violators of their rights, to establish networks among concerned stakeholders, and to further introduce PWD on their rights as well as their effective role in monitoring information and their usage in campaigns and activities advocating for their rights. The Observatory is formed of (1) The Steering Committee, composed of associations active in the disability and civil society groups active in the field of monitoring and human rights, as well as experts and activists; (2) The advisory committee includes associations and institutions active in disability issues; (3) a network of volunteers-investigators. The Observatory works through a system of complaints using boxes and forms distributed to associations of disability and municipalities. PWD can also use a number of tools available on www.disabilitymonitor.org as well as the complaint boxes available at the Social Development Centers of the MOSA, municipalities and some associations of disability. Recently, the Observatory released its first report for the year 2012, which reported around 38 complaints from different parts of Lebanon. The complaints focused on violations against the rights of PWD stipulated in the law 200/2000.</p>
<p>Have public policy measures been taken to supply the necessary infrastructure and programs to satisfy the education demand of persons with disabilities (PWD)? (yes/no)</p> <p>Are the perspectives of out-of-school children and adolescents with disabilities contemplated? (yes/no)</p> <p>Can parents, children and community leaders contribute to the formulation of strategies to identify out-of school children with disabilities, to encourage school attendance? (yes/no)</p>	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>Public policy measures are currently under development as a response to the National Educational Plan for PWD (2012).</p> <p>No</p> <p>They can, but not consulted so far.</p>

<p>Can the parents/associations of children with disabilities contribute to decision making regarding infrastructure? (yes/no)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a monitoring body monitoring the adaptability of infrastructure for persons with disabilities? (yes/no) • Are there programmes or measures to include illiterate adults with disabilities in education and literacy schemes? (yes/no) • Do teachers of persons with disabilities receive special support? (yes/no) • Do their working conditions (teacher/student ratio; number of hours) allow them to help children with disabilities to integrate into classes? (yes/no) <p>Are there measures, policies, regulations, directed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove negative attitudes towards persons with disabilities from teachers' practices? (yes/no) • Remove negative attitudes towards persons with disabilities from staff in schools? (yes/no) • Remove negative attitudes towards persons with disabilities among students in primary and secondary 	<p>Mainly Associations of children with disabilities contribute to decision-making regarding infrastructure. Parents were not reported to being involved in the process.</p> <p>Social institutions contracted by the MOSA to deliver social oriented services to PWD - including education- do benefit from financial support.</p> <p>The Center for Educational Research and Development (CERD) of the MEHE is undertaking measures to train teachers working at the primary level about inclusive education.</p> <p>Besides the Law 220/2000, few initiatives conducted by non-governmental organizations do work on reducing the negative perceptions towards persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Few private schools are working now on initiatives aiming at integrating persons with disabilities among students in primary and secondary levels.</p>
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<p>level? (yes/no)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply specialized staff for improving persons with disabilities' integration to educational activities: experts in sign language, physical therapists, etc.? (yes/no) 	<p>The MOSA, through contracts signed with service-oriented institutions (targeting persons with disabilities) and its Social Development Centers have to supply specialized staff. Private schools have experts in the matter integrated within their educational activities as well.</p>		
<p>Existence of policies to ensure gender equality in and through education</p>	<p>Fully met Partially met Not met</p>		
	<p>Comments: Not met. However it is worth mentioning that MEHE has appointed a committee to review gender discrimination. The Ministry has also appointed a focal point for gender.</p> <p>The new educational curriculum introduced in 1997 a number of materials, such as sociology and economics, information and technology, and theater. However, no development or change has been witnessed in these materials at the level of gender equality, where discrimination still emerge in these materials and women are continuously excluded from most professions and roles.</p> <p>In 2011-2012, the UNESCO in partnership with the Center for Educational for Research and Development (CERD) carried out a study which consisted of conducting a review of textbooks issued by the CERD in order to determine the gender stereotypes and make recommendations for its revision. The specific objectives of the study were: (1) to identify the language used in textbooks to address the target groups from a gender perspective; (2) to identify the gender roles in the books and their distribution between the sexes; (3) to submit proposals for the development of curricula and textbooks in the educational discourse and related gender roles; (4) to draw the attention of educators and interested parties and decision-makers in the MEHE to the importance of making modifications in the textbooks, especially related to the concept of gender and removal of concepts and ideas which enshrines the inferiority of women in society; (5) to create a general awareness among educators and those interested in the importance of informing pupils and students in the various stages of their education roles aimed at the development of the Lebanese society away from gender discrimination.</p>		

<p>Have public policy measures been taken to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove gender bias from primary education primers? (yes/no) • Remove gender bias from teachers' educational strategies? (yes/no) • Remove gender bias in terms of male and female roles in school? (yes/no) • Remove gender bias of gender-targeted optional subject? (yes/no) • Train teachers in gender issues? (yes/no) • Are girls encouraged to take more vocational and less technical courses than boys? no • Are there campaigns to combat stereotypes from texts? yes <p>Are these opportunities enshrined in legislation? (yes/no)</p> <p>Does the State have legislation to protect girls' access to education by ensuring that third parties, including parents and employers, do not prevent girls from going to school? (yes/no)</p>	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>In 2010, a study was undertaken jointly by UNESCO and the Committee for the Follow-up on Women issue on gender perspective in kindergarten. The study indicates that the first and second years of the kindergarten curriculum do not take into account gender issues; it does not neither keep pace with modern development patterns in the curriculum. The study shows clear gender discrimination in favor of males in the overall educational curriculum as shown in the teacher's theoretical and practical guidebooks.</p> <p>In 2011-2012, the UNESCO in partnership with the CERD carried out a more advanced study to remove gender stereotypes from school textbooks and curricula. Among the key objectives of this study is to determine the gender stereotypes and make recommendations for its revision; to submit proposals for the development of curricula and textbooks in the educational discourse and related gender roles; to draw the attention of educators and interested parties and decision-makers in the MEHE to the importance of making modifications in the textbooks, especially related to the concept of gender and removal of concepts and ideas which enshrines the inferiority of women in society. It also aims at creating a general awareness among educators and those interested in the importance of informing pupils and students in the various stages of their education roles aimed at the development of the Lebanese society away from gender discrimination.</p> <p>The research is an inclusive survey of all textbooks issued by the CERD, including scientific, literary, language, arts, technology, informatics, social studies, and other topics of primary and secondary school, and in the Arabic, French and English languages. The study also included the kindergarten stage 0 (first and second kindergarten). The study adopted a gender analysis approach and identified the stereotypes of women in textbooks to highlight discrimination, whether it is an image, a word, an idea, roles or qualities, etc. This analysis would help authors to write books free of discrimination. The study included 103 books, including 84 books from basic education and 19 books for the secondary level. The total number of authors and literature reached 428 authors, including 235 males (55%) and 193 females (45%).</p> <p>As part of the study, the team of researchers found out that in the overall curricular books, the total number of people who practice a profession are 9102 persons, distributed into 7421 males (82%) and 1681 females (18%). While literary books include Social sciences - Economy - Geography - Philosophy - Arts - French - English, the scientific books include Chemistry - Physics - Mathematics - Informatics - Technology - Life Sciences (although some researchers consider economy and geography as part of the scientific books). The number of the professional</p>
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	<p>characters in the scientific field is 699 males and 87 females, whereby females are absent from a large number of professions such as medicine, commerce, science, engineering, management, technology, information, armed forces, etc. The number of the professional characters in the literary field is 3987 males and 514 females. The mindset did not differ much between the literary and the scientific fields, though the number of characters distributed on both male and female occupations is greater in the literary field than the number found in the scientific field, while maintaining the proportions of gender disparity. Because the topics in literary textbooks revolve more around people, females were not excluded from any profession, but her presence in certain professions is very limited compared to the opposite sex, such as assuming functions in the armed forces, industries, laws, sociology, culture, or as managers. In all professions the number of males is higher than those of females, even in the nursing and education. Indeed, what was mostly striking was the distribution of professions in the field of education, where the number of males overshadowed on the number of females: in the educational professions, in the number of teachers and professors, and academicians despite the “feminization” of education in most of these stages. Similarly, the total number of portrays (pictures) is 8429, the number of males (64%) is as twice as for females (36%).</p> <p>Though Lebanon still lacks this kind of very specific legislation related to access to education, it is to note that national laws and regulations do not differentiate between boys and girls in terms of protection to access to education.</p>								
<p>Existence of policies for ensuring access to primary education of:</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="716 867 1167 906">Fully met</td> <td data-bbox="1167 867 1356 906">Partially met</td> <td data-bbox="1356 867 1898 906">Not met</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="716 906 1898 1013"> <p>Comments: Partially met.</p> </td> </tr> </table>			Fully met	Partially met	Not met	<p>Comments: Partially met.</p>		
Fully met	Partially met	Not met							
<p>Comments: Partially met.</p>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low income groups • Female students, including adolescent mothers • Persons with disabilities • Displaced persons • Groups living in dispersed rural and/or isolated areas • Immigrants • Language minorities • Existence of policies directed to out-of-school children 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>The same public policies are applicable to all population groups, including low income groups, female students, displaced persons, groups living in dispersed rural/ isolated areas, immigrants and language minorities.</p> <p>Due to the Syrian crisis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Ministry of Education and Higher Education enabled Syrian refugee students to enroll in Lebanese public schools; - The decree no.9110 dated 12/10/2012 allowed Lebanese students who used to study in Syria to get enrolled in Lebanese universities. <p>In 2012, a specific National Educational Plan for Persons with Disabilities was developed as a response to the requirements set in the Law 220/2000 regarding the Rights of PWD.</p>								

Existence of policies promoting access to information about the education system and its management	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<p>Are there policies that foresee the adoption of measures rendering information about the education system and its management accessible to all? (yes/no)</p> <p>If so, what are these measures?</p> <p>Is there mention of special measures to ensure that such information reaches the most disadvantaged, including women, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV/AIDS, etc.? (yes/no)</p>	Comments: Not met		
INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK			
Existence of institutions entrusted with the task of reviewing the equal access of disadvantaged groups to education	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<p>Is there an institution responsible for reviewing the degree of inclusiveness of the educational system? (yes/no)</p> <p>If, so</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it a centralized institution? • Does it have regional/local antennas? • Which are the groups the inclusion of which this institution 	Comments: Partially met		
	Comments/Responses: <p>The Center for Educational Research and Development (CERD) of the MEHE. Among its main functions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to prepare educational plan projects, spontaneously or by authorization of the Minister of Education, covering educational types, branches and stages, except university education; - to monitor the implementation of educational plans that have been approved by the authorities concerned; - to study curricula and submit relevant recommendations; - to make a final decision on textbooks, educational publications and audio-visual aids as to 		

<p>is monitoring?</p> <p>Are persons with disabilities explicitly mentioned? (yes/no)</p> <p>Does the institution cover all levels and forms of education? (yes/no)</p> <p>Is the institution authorized to conduct investigations on the basis of communications by persons belonging to disadvantaged groups entitled to submit complaints? (yes/no) Is the existing independent human rights institution (ombudsperson, human rights commission, etc.), if any, entitled to receive communications on alleged discrimination in accessing different levels and forms of the education system? (yes/no)</p>	<p>their suitability for use in schools.</p> <p>The CERD is part of the MEHE. The CERD covers all levels and forms of education except for Higher Education.</p> <p>Children with Disabilities are among the key marginalized groups recently covered by CERD in the context of the National Education Plan for Persons with Disabilities.</p> <p>The CERD is not entitled to conduct investigations on the basis of communications by persons belonging to disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>MEHE has established within its premises a unit to follow-up on issues related to needs of persons with disabilities. MEHE has equally set up a committee to follow up on gender discrimination issues.</p> <p>In 2012, an observatory for the rights of PWD was established in Lebanon by the LPHU and the MOSA, in partnership with Diakonia and the Legal Agenda. The Observatory aims towards providing updated information on the status of PWD in Lebanon, to lobby against the violators of their rights, to establish networks among concerned stakeholders, and to further introduce PWD on their rights as well as their effective role in monitoring information and their usage in campaigns and activities advocating for their rights. The Observatory is formed of (1) The Steering Committee, composed of associations active in the disability and civil society groups active in the field of monitoring and human rights, as well as experts and activists; (2) The advisory committee includes associations and institutions active in disability issues; (3) a network of volunteers-investigators. The Observatory works through a system of complaints using boxes and forms distributed to associations of disability and municipalities. PWD can also use a number of tools available on www.disabilitymonitor.org as well as the complaint boxes available at the Social Development Centers of the MOSA, municipalities and some associations of disability. Recently, the Observatory released its first report for the year 2012, which reported around 38 complaints from different parts of Lebanon. The complaints focused on violations against the rights of PWD stipulated in the law 200/2000.</p>
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(3) Science

Knowledge is fundamental to human development, and plays a key role in economic growth, social development and political empowerment. The concept of knowledge societies, advanced by UNESCO as distinct from the 'information society', includes notions of inclusiveness, pluralism, equity, openness and participation, and reflects UNESCO's conviction that knowledge should be shaped and driven not only by scientific and technological forces or financial interests but also by societal choices and needs.

Investment in science, technology and innovation (STI) to create new knowledge is an important driver of economic growth and social development, involving the implementation of public policies which are based on holistic scientific research to address the profound and complex global challenges and social transformations taking place in every society. The social and ethical dimensions of science and technology are hence central to UNESCO's mandate, as it strives to reach out to the disadvantaged groups of society, with a particular focus on women and girls, and to contribute to sustainable development and peace through a human rights-based approach and a social change focus in all its fields of competence. Science and technology, therefore, play a crucial role in creating social cohesion and social inclusion, and can become an equalizing force whose role will largely depend on the conceptual and analytical framework and methodologies for the production of science and technology for social development.

RATIFICATION OF SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS			
	YES	NO	Comments
<p>Has the State ratified the following international treaties:</p> <p>Universal Copyright Convention</p> <p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order <p>Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments?</p> <p>If not, please explain the reasons why specific instruments were not ratified?</p>	YES		<p>October 17th, 1959.</p> <p>Copyright is protected in Lebanon through international Agreements, law on the Protection of Literary and Artistic Property No. 75/ 99 (the copyright law) and other legislation related to enforcement of copyright or affecting copyright protection. The copyright law was enacted on 3 April, 1999 and published in the official gazette No 18/ 99 on 13 April, 1999. It entered into force on June 14, 1999.</p> <p>A decision implementing Article 25 of the Law on reproduction of computer programs by non lucrative institutions was adopted on 1 July, 2002 (Ministerial Decision No. 16/2002[see Decree 16-1 and Decree 16-2] and Lebanon Copyright Implementing Decision No 16. In November 2007, the Council of Ministers issued Decree No. 918/ 2007 implementing Article 66 of the Law on “Regulating the mode of establishment and functioning of collective management associations and companies and the manner in which the Lebanese Government shall control their activities and examine violations”. The Decree was published in the official gazette on 15 November 2007 and entered into force on the same date. These are the only implementing regulations required for the implementation of the Law.</p> <p>The Copyright law is being reviewed for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drafting new provisions on copyrights aiming at adapting the copyright law to the electronic environment. - Incorporating in the law provisions of the Appendix to the Berne Convention.

			- Redrafting the provisions on “Exceptions” for more compatibility with Berne language including Article 25 of the law.
<p>Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works</p> <p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order <p>Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments?</p> <p>If not, please explain the reasons why specific instruments were not ratified?</p>			<p>Accession on February 19. 1946; Entry into force on September 30, 1947</p> <p>Law on the Protection of Literary and Artistic Property (No. 75 of April 3, 1999). The application of the law is valid for every production of the human spirit be it written, pictorial, sculptural, manuscript or oral, regardless of its value, importance or purpose and the mode or form of its</p> <p>Expression, including books, archives, pamphlets, publications, printed material and other literary, scientific and artistic writings; lectures, addresses and other oral works; audiovisual works and photographs; musical compositions with or without words; dramatic or drama-musical works; choreographic works and pantomimes; drawings, sculpture, engraving, ornamentation, weaving and lithography; illustrations and drawings related to architecture; computer programs whatever their language and including preliminary work; maps, plans, sketches and three-dimensional works relative to geography, topography, architecture or science; any kind of plastic art work whether intended for industry or not (Chapter II: Protected works, article 2). Also derivative works are subject to the provisions of this Law including: translations, adaptations, transformations and arrangements of music; collections of literary or artistic works and compilations of data, whether in machine-readable or other form, provided that they are authorized by the copyright holder or his public or private successors and that by reason of the selection and arrangement of their contents they constitute intellectual creations (Chapter II: Protected works, article 3). However excluded</p>

			from the protection provided by this Law are: daily news; laws, legislative decrees, decrees and decisions issued by all public authorities and official translations thereof; judicial decisions of all kinds and official translations thereof; speeches delivered in public assemblies and meetings; ideas, data and abstract scientific facts; artistic folkloric works of all kinds (however, works inspired by folklore shall enjoy protection).
<p>WIPO Copyright Treaty – WCT</p> <p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order <p>Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments?</p> <p>If not, please explain the reasons why specific instruments were not ratified?</p>		NO	The Lebanese Republic Working Party established on 14 April 1999. Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime circulated in 14 June 2001. Multilateral work is proceeding on the basis of a revised draft working party report circulated in October 2009.
<p>WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights – TRIPS</p> <p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order <p>Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments?</p> <p>If not, please explain the reasons why specific instruments were not ratified?</p>		NO	Observer; However, member countries of the WTO could be considered as automatically bound by the agreement. Chapters II and III of the Law on the Protection of Literary and Artistic Property (No. 75 of April 3, 1999) describes the provisions related to protected works and copyright holder and terms of protection.
Has the State ratified any regional instruments relating to SETI? (yes/no)		NO	

<p>If yes,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order. - Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments? 	<p>Lebanon signed the Arab Copyright & Neighboring Rights Convention signed on 3 December, 2004; however, it is not ratified yet.</p> <p>In all its activities and programmes, the National Council for Scientific Research of Lebanon (CNRS) has developed strong relationships, particularly through its programmes to support scientific research and Ph.D. scholarships, with many universities outside Lebanon. These relationships have been extended to cover a wide range of ministries, public institutions, UN agencies and other international and regional institutions operating in Lebanon who are interested in the CNRS and its specialized centers. Moreover, the CNRS has a wide range of bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements with French institutions (Programme CEDRE), the European Commission, scientific and academic institutions in Arab Countries (in particular with Syria through the Scientific Libano-Syrian cooperation programmes), and with Europe and the United States of America. These agreements cover many specialized regional and international research institutions. The CNRS hopes to develop closer relationships with donor agencies and with scientific research networks in the Arab region and in Europe.</p>
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UNIVERSAL INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECLARATIONS (SOFT LAW)			
Have the content and principles contained in the instruments listed below been explicitly incorporated/integrated into national laws and / or regulations?	YES	NO	Comments
Universal Declaration of Human Rights	YES		The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an integral part of the Lebanese Constitution text.
Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights	YES		During the last decade, many laboratories for genetic testing have been established in university hospitals and private clinics in Lebanon. Tests are regulated under Law no. 625/2004 concerning human genetic tests. Articles 1-6 of this law address: genetic mutations, ethnic discrimination, and genetic characteristics of the individual, prohibition of manipulations affecting human dignity, confidentiality of tests, and prohibition of every commercial practice in relation with genetics. Article 7-20 concern genetic tests and their scientific and medical

			purposes, informed consent, delivery of results, paternity testing, the necessity of obtaining written consent from the guardians of minors and disabled persons, and the necessity of obtaining written consent from the Ministry of Public Health prior to testing groups or inhabitants of a particular region.
International Declaration on Human Genetic Data	YES		Article 21-26 of the Law no. 625/2004 concerning human genetic tests concern the issue of DNA banks and medical confidentiality in relation to the conservation or destruction of results or specimens. A draft law is being currently prepared to create a national database for DNA profiles. This database will be under the control of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior. In addition, all major institutes and universities in Lebanon have their own institutional review boards to regulate all research related to human genome and gene analysis in accordance with national and international guidelines on research bioethics.
Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights		NO	In 2005, Lebanon approved the universal principles of bioethics proclaimed in the UNESCO Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. Lebanon is characterized by a pluralistic outlook of the Personal Status Code. The personal status of the different denominations in Lebanon is on equal foot and none has the character or nature of civil law. The Lebanese Constitution renders the state responsible for respecting this autonomy and the State is not subject to the religious convictions of any denomination.
Recommendation for the status of scientific researchers		NO	The provisions set in the Recommendation are embedded in the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) prepared by the National Council for Scientific Research. However they have not been explicitly incorporated into national laws or regulations.
Recommendation concerning the International		NO	

Standardization of Statistics on Science and Technology			
Declaration on Science and the Use of Scientific Knowledge		NO	The provisions set in the Declaration are embedded in the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) prepared by the National Council for Scientific Research. In particular, the STIP highlights the principles of "Science for knowledge, knowledge for progress", "science for development" and "science in society and science for society". However instruments need to be developed accordingly and explicitly incorporated into national laws or regulations.
ECOSOC Resolution No. 1826 (1973) on the 'Role of modern science and technology in the development of nations and the need to strengthen economic, technical and scientific co-operation among States'		NO	The provisions set in the ECOSOC Resolution No. 1826 (1973) are embedded in the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) prepared by the National Council for Scientific Research. However they have not been explicitly incorporated into national laws or regulations.
World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development		NO	The World Plan of Action is foreseen in the framework of the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) prepared by the National Council for Scientific Research; however, not implemented yet.
Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment		NO	Many of the principles of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment are mainstreamed within the laws and regulations of the Ministry of Environment, including principles relating to safeguarding the natural resources and ecosystems, maintaining and restoring renewable energy resources, adopting appropriate measures for toxic waste disposal, pollution prevention, etc.. Also the STIP Policy prepared by the CNRS contains a number of principles, including applying science and technology as part of their contribution to economic and social development, promoting science research and development in the context of environmental problems, etc. However the STIP recommendations require transposing them into laws and regulations.

Statement on the Fundamental Character of Science		NO	
CONSTITUTION			
Recognition of human rights relating to science in the constitution without discrimination:	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Partially met.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications • the freedom indispensable for scientific research and creative activity • a person's right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he or she is the author • right to freedom of opinion and expression, including the right to seek, receive and impart information • right to freedom of association with others • right of peaceful assembly • right of everyone lawfully within the territory of a State to liberty of movement within the territory of that State 	Comments/Responses: <p>The Constitution affirms the right of every Lebanese citizen to education and learning without discrimination, however without referring to "science" in specific.</p> <p>The Constitution does not state a specific right related to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he or she is the author. However, this right is transposed into the Law on the Protection of Literary and Artistic Property (No. 75 of April 3, 1999).</p> <p>The freedom of expression is guaranteed by the Lebanese Constitution. The Lebanese Constitution confirms expressly in its Article 13 the freedom to express an opinion in words and in writing, the freedom of assembly and the freedom of association which are all guaranteed within the limits laid down in the law.</p> <p>The right to seek, receive and impart information is not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution. In this respect, it is worth highlighting the efforts of the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform (OMSAR), which has established a portal www.informs.gov.lb, allowing citizens to receive information related to administrative procedures (ministries, municipalities, mechanics, etc.) and transactions that are of interest to the citizens. As part of the E-Strategy, public administrations do have now the capacity to receive requests from citizens about information, transactions or complaints.</p> <p>In October 2012, the Council of Ministers approved the proposed parliamentary law on the right of access to information in the public administrations. In November</p>		

<p>Does the constitution provide for limitations to the exercise of these rights? If yes, does it specify the conditions under which such limitations apply?</p> <p>Is any of the following grounds a valid basis for restricting the exercise of the above-listed rights: race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status?</p>	<p>2012, the Sub-Committee of the Administration and Justice Committee endorsed the proposal law on the right of access to information. This law would allow any citizen to access to any document in the administration except for certain matters relating to national security and emergency situations.</p> <p>The Constitution does not specifically point out to the right of everyone lawfully within the territory of a State to liberty of movement within the territory of that State. However the Constitution states that "Lebanon is one land for all the Lebanese. Every Lebanese has the right to reside in any part of Lebanon and enjoy it under the rule of law". This right is also secured by the prevailing rules and regulations within the limits provided to by the law.</p> <p>The Constitution does not provide for any limitations. Any limitation to the exercise of these rights is governed by the prevailing rules and regulations.</p> <p>None of the mentioned grounds constitutes a basis for restricting the exercise of any right. The Constitution guarantees equal rights to all citizens without any discrimination.</p>		
LEGISLATION			
<p>Existence of legislation regulating SETI activities across various policy areas (e.g. S&T; Industry; Education, Agriculture, Health, Energy, Environment, Culture)</p>	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	<p>Comments: Partially met. National laws refer to SETI activities in the Environment, Health, Energy, Industry, Agriculture, and Culture.</p> <p>Comments/Responses: Sectoral ministries and public institutions promote scientific research, technological development and innovation each according to the law(s) governing its</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do national laws promote scientific research, technological development and innovation? If so what system do they put in place? 	<p>establishment and scope of work. A number of executive legal texts and circulars are developed to establish laboratories, to propose capacity building programmes, and to respond to international conventions and agreements through programmes dedicated to respond to international technical/scientific requirements. For example, the law 444/2002 of the Ministry of Environment (the protection of the environment) calls in many of its provisions to develop technologies aiming at waste recycling, collection, sorting and disposal; it also calls for developing guidelines related to the usage of specific technologies, energy and alternative materials, and for the conservation of natural resources as well as developing follow-up indicators to encourage pollution prevention, minimization and control. However and despite all efforts currently taking place, the prevailing systems need to be upgraded and reinforced, in terms of regulations, finance, and human resources, to meet the technological changes taking place at national and global levels.</p> <p>The National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS) was established in 1962 for this purpose, whereby the Government allocates a yearly budget to promote through the Center scientific research and technological development. in addition to the budget allocated yearly to it.</p> <p>Based on decree 16766-1957, the Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute (LARI) is a governmental organization under the Minister of Agriculture supervision. The Institute conducts applied and basic scientific research for the development and advancement of the agricultural sector in Lebanon. In addition the Institute keeps close ties with the farmers and tries to develop research activities aiming at solving their problems. Seven centers located at different sites throughout Lebanon conduct research in crop production, crop protection, plant breeding, plant biotechnology, agro-biodiversity and genetic resources, medicinal plants, pomology, pasture and forage production, soil fertility, biology and biochemistry, animal health, poultry nutrition, ruminant production, irrigation and agro-meteorology, food technology and quality.</p> <p>Established in 1953, and linked to the Ministry of Industry by Law n° 642/1997, the Industrial Research Institute (IRI) is a not-for-profit institution, with administrative</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there laws in force that implement bilateral and/or multilateral agreements on scientific cooperation? 	<p>raising their professional level and introducing them to practical developments in the field of applied agriculture. At the national level, official conventions for collaboration in research and development already exist between LARI and the Lebanese academia. Undergraduate and graduate students are regularly joining the LARI laboratories for training and thesis preparation.</p> <p>No. National Laws exempt public administrations and public utility organizations from taxes and fees. However, private institutions are not exempted. This issue is raised in the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (2206) developed by the National Council for Scientific Research which calls for providing the private sector with incentives, including tax exemption, to facilitate and encourage the Research and Development initiatives, a matter that can reduce significantly brain drain in Lebanon.</p> <p>A number of agreements are signed by the CNRS however not regulated by laws. In 2011, an Agreement on Scientific Cooperation was signed with the National Research Council of Italy (CNR), aiming at strengthening cooperation in scientific research between Lebanon and Italy. Cooperation is implemented through joint research projects of biannual duration and joint scientific workshops in research areas related to marine science and management of natural resources. On August 5, 2011 an agreement on scientific cooperation was signed between the CNRS and the "Politecnico Di Milano". The agreement aimed at promoting activities and projects of mutual interest in the areas of knowledge and experience exchange, development of studies and collaborative research projects, exchange of expertise (teachers, researchers, technicians and students), and exchange of documentation (works, reviews, pedagogical documentation, exhibitions, etc.).</p> <p>The Ministry of Environment has also a number of programmes and projects resulting from multilateral agreements and protocols (such as Montreal Convention, Biodiversity Convention, etc.) which resulted in the issuance of a number of legislative decrees in force such as Legislative Decree no.8213 (strategic environmental impact assessment), legislative decree no.2604 related to controlling ozone depleting substances.</p>
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Existence of national laws on SETI recognizing explicitly promoting equal access to benefits of the most disadvantaged:	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<p>Do national laws on SETI link the following measures/initiatives explicitly to the goal of rendering benefits accessible to the most disadvantaged?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of the national innovation system • Imports/exports of high tech products • Tax incentives to promote innovation within the private sector • Foreign investment initiatives promoting high tech industries 	<p>Comments: Not met.</p>		
	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>There are no laws but rather initiatives that are taking place. For instance, in 2002, the Ministry of Environment established the Lebanese Center for Cleaner Production. Funded by the European Commission and the Austrian Government in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Center was transferred later to the Industrial Research Institute in 2004. The Center supports small and medium enterprises through the adoption of clean production measures and methods of sustainable industrial production, which would reduce the consumption of water, energy, etc., as well as the reduction of the amount of pollutant emissions and of liquid and solid waste.</p> <p>There are no laws on innovation system, but rather initiatives that are taking place.</p> <p>No</p> <p>No tax incentives policies are put in place yet to promote innovation within the private sector. This issue is raised in the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (2006) developed by the CNRS which calls for providing the private sector with incentives, including tax exemption, to facilitate and encourage the Research and Development initiatives, a matter that can reduce significantly brain drain in Lebanon.</p> <p>No</p> <p>In January 2011 the Lebanese Parliament enacted the Offshore Petroleum Resources Law (2010/32) which provides the legal framework for the exploration and exploitation of offshore oil and gas resources in Lebanon. This law is to be</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploitation of natural resources by foreign firms • Fostering and regulating research and development initiatives in the private sector <p>Do national laws in line with bilateral and/or multilateral agreements on scientific cooperation make reference to the sharing of benefits of scientific progress and its applications?</p>	<p>supplemented by a number of decrees. Foreign firms are entitled to exploit natural resources accordingly.</p> <p>No</p> <p>No.</p> <p>Most of the national laws, particularly those issued in the last decade, are in line with bilateral and multilateral agreements on scientific cooperation. Revising the prevailing legislations is an on-going process undertaken by the concerned ministries. However the recurrent government resignation in the past years delays the process of approval and consequently submitting the draft laws to the parliament.</p>					
<p>Existence of explicit targets in promoting equal access of women and men to science education and equal participation thereof in science production</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #fce4d6;">Fully met</td> <td style="background-color: #fce4d6;">Partially met</td> <td style="background-color: #fce4d6;">Not met</td> </tr> </table>			Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Fully met	Partially met	Not met			
<p>Comments: Partially met. No explicit targets were reported regarding promoting equal access of women and men to science education and equal participation thereof in science production.</p>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the national legislation guarantee access to the benefits of scientific progress and its applications without discrimination of any kind? • Does national legislation protect individuals and groups against the harmful effects and/or applications of scientific research and innovation? 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>There is no explicit national legislation that guarantees access to the benefits of scientific progress and its applications without discrimination of any kind. However, there is no restriction reported to exist either.</p> <p>Research involving human subjects is regulated under several laws and guidelines. Law no. 574 dated 2004 pertaining to patients' rights and informed consent tackles in its first chapter the subject's right to access of information. Inspired by the Nuremberg Code (1947), the Helsinki Declaration (1964), which was reviewed by</p>					

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do national laws provide for grants/loans/allocations to enable persons belonging to disadvantaged groups to have access to the applications of scientific progress? 	<p>the General Assembly of the World Health Organization (1975) and the directives of WHO and Edinburg (2000), and in recognition of the increasing number of medical faculties and university hospitals, it was found necessary to propose a draft law on creating Institutional Review Boards at hospitals in which medical research or experimentation are conducted. The draft law on establishing Institutional Review Boards in hospitals (submitted in 2002 and currently pending in parliament) was preceded by guidelines in 2001, which outlined general principles on drug testing on human beings. These guidelines were adopted by the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH). They require: (1) written and informed consent of the volunteering human subject; (2) stated purpose of the research; (3) assurance that the research should not present any danger whatsoever to the human subject; (4) authorization of the MOPH; (5) special measures for research conducted on minors and subjects under guardianship.</p> <p>National laws providing for grants/ loans/ allocations, if they exist, do not differentiate between citizens, whether belonging or not to disadvantaged groups, towards having access to the applications of scientific progress.</p>		
<p>Existence of national guidelines for ethics reviews</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
	<p>Comments: Partially met</p>		
<p>Are there national guidelines regulating the realization of ethics reviews in the conduct of scientific research?</p>	<p>Comments/Responses: During the last decade, many laboratories for genetic testing have been established in university hospitals and private clinics in Lebanon. Tests are regulated under Law no. 625/2004 concerning human genetic tests. Articles 1-6 of this law address: genetic mutations, ethnic discrimination, genetic characteristics of the individual, prohibition of manipulations affecting human dignity, confidentiality of tests, and prohibition of every commercial practice in relation with genetics. Article 7-20 concern genetic tests and their scientific and medical purposes, informed consent, delivery of results, paternity testing, the necessity of obtaining written consent from the guardians of minors and disabled persons, and the necessity of obtaining written consent from the MOPH prior to testing groups or inhabitants of a particular region.</p>		

<p>If so, do the guidelines recognize the following as central considerations in the performance of ethics reviews:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-discrimination • Autonomy and individual responsibility • Existence of prior, free and informed consent • Respect for privacy and confidentiality • Benefit sharing • Protection of indigenous knowledge • Protection of the environment, biosphere and biodiversity 	<p>The Law no.625 dated 2004 of the MOPH recognizes non-discrimination, individual responsibility, Existence of prior, free and informed consent, and respect for privacy and confidentiality.</p> <p>As for the protection of the environment, the Ministry of Environment elaborated during the past decade, and still, a large number of legislative texts and decisions, as well as action plan and guidelines. These tools address all types of environmental issues including waste management, biodiversity conservation. Regarding medical waste in specific, the Ministry of Environment issued a legislative decree no.13389 dated 11/6/2002 regarding the identification of the medical waste and means of disposal. In this decree, which is mainly based on the provisions of the Basel Convention, is applied to all types of public and private medical institutions including hospitals, laboratories, clinics, storage facilities, higher education institutes and research centers.</p>		
POLICY FRAMEWORK			
Existence of national policy framework for SETI	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments:		
	Partially met		
If so, please provide reference	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>A Science, Technology and Innovation Policy for Lebanon (STIP) was developed and launched in April 2006. Until today, the National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS), has been able to gradually implement some of STIP recommendations, namely:</p> <p>(1) Adopting STIP priorities in its grant research program that finances research at Lebanese universities.</p> <p>(2) Initiating steps, with the support of UNESCO, leading to the establishment of a Lebanese National Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation.</p> <p>(3) Calling on Lebanese universities for the joint establishment of Associated Research Units, as centers of excellence in priority areas defined by STIP. The STIP is being partially applied so far.</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are human resources for research, innovation and strategic planning foreseen in the framework? • Are capacity-building, education and training of specialized human capital for (1) the production of new scientific knowledge; (2) the development of new technologies; (3) the promotion of innovation within the productive and services systems; (4) the management of the knowledge society included in the framework; and (5) ethics training? • Is the development of strategic technological areas and new niche products and services with high added value included 	<p>The STIP proposed a Plan of Action that recommends specific Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policies that would enable Lebanon to lay the foundation for more purposive and vigorous programmes and to increase the rate of expenditure on STI; including a substantial increase in human resources and infrastructure, leading to a tangible impact on the country's economic growth. It it to note that among the CNRS programme, there is already a Programme to develop human resources. This Programme, launched at the establishment of the CNRS, is managed in parallel with the scientific policy programmes, so as to prepare the potential human resources dedicated to scientific research. The Programme had a forced interruption during the period of civil strife from 1975-1990. Financing was re-established in 1999, and between 1999 and 2005, a total of 600 scholarships were granted. The Programme is announced yearly, offering scholarships for Ph.D. studies at prominent universities in Europe, the United States of America and Canada as well as in Lebanon for doctoral studies, co-managed between foreign universities and CNRS affiliated centres. About twenty scholarships are offered annually, selected from an average of 150 applications received by the CNRS. Still within its objectives to enhance competence and to develop human resources, in 2002 the CNRS launched a new scholarship programme for the first cycle of university studies, for the laureates of the Lebanese Baccalaureate opting for university education in Lebanon. Twelve distinguished students benefit from this programme every year.</p> <p>Capacity-building, education and training of specialized human capital were indeed included in the STIP policy framework in the production of new scientific knowledge, the development of new technologies, the promotion of innovation within the productive and services systems, and the management of the knowledge society. They are mainstreamed in all the sectors considered of high importance by CNRS, including industry, environment, financial and banking sector, agriculture and agro-industry.</p> <p>The strategy for developing a science, technology and innovation policy for Lebanon calls for the focus on opportunities in three important areas: (1) Basic sciences,</p>
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<p>in the framework?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the promotion and development of innovation in the production of goods and services, and the promotion of start-ups in areas of high technology included in the framework? • Does the policy framework take into account gender equality considerations? • Does the policy promote the social appropriation of scientific knowledge and new technologies? 	<p>industry and engineering, (2) Environment and agriculture, (3) Health and medical sciences. Such a focus will allow for a much more tangible appreciation of the benefits of investing in STI. The emphasis is on concrete activities in the field of: (i) research, (ii) human resource development, (iii) dissemination, (iv) technology transfer and (v) innovation, which together lead naturally to more generic measures that strengthen the research environment and, accordingly, the STI Policy.</p> <p>For example, in the field of renewable energy resources (e.g. chemical, wind, hydroelectric, solar), the STIP refers to the current underutilized opportunities, not only to reduce energy consumption, but also to produce electricity from renewable sources. The main focus is to cut energy costs, which while contributing to the preservation of the environment, would help enterprises in all sectors to become more competitive in local and foreign markets. A subsequent aim is to develop human resources in this field, as technical expertise and trained people capable of establishing enterprises that are competent in delivering competitive products in the field of renewable energy solutions. The Programme will be based on technologies developed abroad and their adaptation to the opportunities available locally; thus identifying the most suitable technologies for application in Lebanese enterprises and energy production plants and in niche markets for new products. The main opportunities in this case are related to: (1) Hydro-electric power, building on the fact that rivers in Lebanon mostly originate at very high altitudes; (2) Solar energy panels, as commercial commodities as well as energy-producing devices and solar cell technologies; (3) Advanced windmills for use inland.</p> <p>Promoting and transforming creative ideas into innovative products and businesses is a key objective of the STIP Policy. Taking into account the current Lebanese context, both opportunities and gaps, CNRS proposed, partially and in limited scale, the establishment of seed funding, linking with existing or new incubators, organizing workshops on business planning and entrepreneurship development for the scientific community.</p> <p>The STIP refers to the gender distribution in the education sector; however it does not recommend explicitly to account for gender equality considerations.</p> <p>No</p>
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Inclusion of STI objectives and targets into national development planning processes	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are STI-related objectives and targets incorporated in national development plans, e.g. Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), National Development Strategy (NDS), United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)/ United Nations United Nations Partnership for Development Framework (UNPDF), etc? 	Comments: Not met. Comments/Responses: The STI objectives and targets are not mainstreamed yet into the national development planning processes. However, as part of its mandate as advisor to the Lebanese Government, the CNRS has the capacity to include the STIP into national development planning processes. The UN Development Assistance Framework(UNDAF)-Lebanon (2010-2014) refers implicitly to science and technology in its fifth outcome (by 2014, improved accessibility to and management of natural resources and enhanced response to national and global environmental changes) to mainstreaming environmental considerations into sector and local-level strategies and plans. But this outcome does not come as a response to the STI-related objectives and targets. No other strategies or plans were reported to have incorporated the STI-related objectives and targets.		
Existence of policies strengthening the infrastructure of research laboratories in the public and private sectors	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Partially met. There is no overall policy that aims at strengthening research laboratories for both public and private sectors. Strengthening research laboratories is governed by rules of the public sector (public research laboratory) or private institution/ university. However, the STI Policy developed by CNRS aims at strengthening such infrastructure in key sectors identified by the Strategy.		
Existence of policies strengthening the production of new endogenous scientific knowledge	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Not met.		
Existence of policies promoting the development of green technologies and social-inclusion technologies	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Not met		

Existence of policies strengthening the quality of technology foresight studies to assess the potential of high-value markets, develop business plans for high-tech companies, construct and analyse long-term scenarios and provide consulting services and strategic intelligence	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Not met		
Existence of policies strengthening the participation of disadvantaged groups in research and innovation	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Not met		
Existence of policies improving the capacity building of human resources, particularly persons with disabilities	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Partially met. Capacity building of human resources is part of the public administrations' mandates by law. Also a large number of nongovernmental organizations include within their policies and programmes capacity building initiatives taking place at national and local levels. Capacity building programmes target different marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities.		
INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK			
Existence of a Ministry in charge of the design, elaboration and implementation of policies and policy tools for the development of science, engineering, technology and innovation?	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Not met.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the name of this Ministry or unit (which of the four themes it covers)? • Which are the main goals of the Ministry? • What is the percentage of the budget allocated to the Ministry, how is it calculated? 	Comments/Responses: There is no single Ministry entrusted with the design, elaboration and implementation of policies and policy tools for the development of science, engineering, technology and innovation. Instead, each sectoral Ministry is mandated within its establishment law to develop and implement its own policies. The STI Policy prepared by CNRS is the first integrated policy initiative that intends to undertake a common approach, at least for the design of policies in these sectors.		

<p>Existence of mechanisms strengthening co-ordination, networking and integration which promote synergies among the different actors of the national scientific, technological and productive innovation system (i.e. government, university and productive sectors).</p>	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<p>Existence of mechanisms strengthening regional and international cooperation, networking and promotion of SETI activities.</p>	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<p>National statistics authorities collecting standardized information on scientific and technological (S&T) activities, and particularly on research and experimental development (R&D)?</p>	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	<p>Comments: Partially met. The Lebanese Government has made some effort in recent years to support the private sector to pursue available opportunities. But the benefits resulting from such efforts have not been commensurate with expectations. Lebanon has yet to benefit from available expertise. It has suffered from a massive brain drain and an under-performing economy. Besides, Lebanon suffers from a very low level of networking and connectivity between its economic, educational and professional organizations.</p> <p>Not met.</p> <p>There are no national statistics authorities in charge of collecting standardized information on scientific and technological activities. A potential partner to the National Council for Scientific Research could be the Central Administration for Statistics (CAS), which is the public Administration, within the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, entitled to collect, process, produce and disseminate social and economic statistics at the national level and to provide all users with evidence-based information for decision making. CAS is also in charge of the technical supervision of statistics produced by other ministries and public administrations as well as improving methods and harmonizing statistics. All CAS activities are governed by Law No 1793/79. To this effect, the CNRS considers the CAS as an important partner in the implementation of STIP. Joint efforts would be undertaken with the CAS to provide all partners in the STIP (particularly the proposed Lebanese STI Observatory and the specialized information units) with relevant, timely and accurate statistics. Each Primary Actor (PA) of activities is expected to supply the CAS with a list of items where vital statistics are required, along with a list of sources where these data can be collected. The CAS is expected to take necessary action to collect data, process it and provide easy access to all concerned.</p>		

<p>Do these statistics cover all national institutions that perform or finance such activities?</p>	<p>Comments/Responses: In the lack of national statistics authorities collecting standardized information on scientific and technological (S&T) activities, the Statistics Law clearly states the key role played by the CAS in the National Statistical System, giving it coordination and technical authority over the statistical units in other public agencies (Article 3, specifically paragraphs 1 and 2) and the right to collect data from all administrations (Article 5). Several articles of Decree 2728 refer to cooperation between CAS departments and other public administrations/municipalities for production of sector-specific statistics. The Lebanese legal framework provides for 'statistical units' within each Ministry and in other relevant administrations, each operating under the technical supervision of the CAS department concerned. Each authorized producer of official statistics is bound to use the classifications, standards and definitions adopted by the CAS. The latter point is covered by Article 3 of the Law, in general terms, and by Article 25 of Decree 2728 which, with specific reference to compilation of the national accounts, includes in the responsibilities of the CAS (Department of Coordination and National Accounts) 'unification and dissemination of statistical symbols and terms used in the different units of the CAS in public administrations, public institutions and municipalities.</p>		
<p>Existence of functioning National Bioethics Committee</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
	<p>Comments: Fully met.</p>		
<p>Is a National Bioethics Committee established?</p>	<p>Comments/Responses: The Lebanese National Consultative Committee on Ethics (LNCCE) was established on May 15th, 2001 by the Council of Ministers according to Decree no. 63/2001 (amended consecutively by decisions no.139/2012 and Decision no. 37/2013, amendments mainly related to the substitution of some of its members). The LNCCE is an independent and multidisciplinary committee, currently composed of 23 members (and not 14 members as when it was created in 2001), representing actual and former ministers, religious figures, doctors, etc. The selection of its members is based on their competency and expertise. According to the second article of the Decision no.63/2001, the Bioethics Committee is mandated to provide its opinion, develop studies, propose recommendations and suggestions related to</p>		

<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the protection of persons belonging to disadvantaged groups among its guiding considerations? (yes/no) • Is it mandated to target specifically marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, as part of its awareness-raising activities? (yes/no) • Is it authorized to engage in awareness-raising for the benefit of the public at large? (yes/no) • Does it have a role in the setting up of the national research agenda in relevant fields as well as in the allocation of resources? (yes/no) • Is it entitled to initiate and/or contribute to the elaboration of public policies in this field? (yes/no) 	<p>bioethics issues that are raised in the context of research and applied bioethics sciences, whether these issues are linked to an individual or a community. The Committee is functional since 2001 and the members of the board meet regularly, at least once a month.</p> <p>Yes, any issue related to Bioethics and Human Rights is within the Committee's focus and consideration.</p> <p>The NLCCE has the complete freedom to publish and diffuse recommendations when it is necessary. The Committee is also in the process of developing a website which will help in diffusing information and awareness about bioethics issues to the public at large.</p> <p>Until now, the role in the setting up of the national research agenda in relevant fields as well as in the allocation of resources was assigned to the National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS) of Lebanon. The NLCCE will collaborate in the future with the CNRS for a better control of the ethical aspect of Research on Human subject in the country.</p> <p>As previously mentioned, the Committee gives a consultative opinion about bioethics issues when asked for it. It can also propose national recommendations about ethical issues and elaborate draft legislative texts to be approved by the Council of Ministers or the House of Parliament.</p> <p>The Committee has already initiated recommendations for the creation of an ethics committee in each university hospital, where clinical trials and research are conducted.</p>
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Existence of functioning Clinical Committees	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	<p>Comments:</p> <p>Each university hospital has a clinical committee for ethics.</p>		
<p>Is a research ethics committee established? If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the protection of persons belonging to disadvantaged groups among its guiding considerations? (yes/no) • At what level is such committee established? • Is the committee using in its work the following instruments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Declaration of Helsinki by the World Medical Association ○ The International Ethical Guidelines for Bio-medical Research involving human subjects by the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences? • Is the work of the committee guided by the following principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Autonomy and individual responsibility ○ Existence of prior and informed consent ○ Respect for privacy and confidentiality ○ Benefit sharing? 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>Few years ago, the Lebanese National Ethics Committee (CCNLE) recommended that each Lebanese hospital of more than 60 beds should have a Medical Ethics Committee (MEC). The recommendations include general guidelines about the creation and role of these Committees. Each University Hospital and many other hospitals have already their own Ethics Committees but their role was mostly limited to review research proposals for ethical issues. Any research protocol involving humans must be submitted for assessment to an Ethics Committee, be it originated by hospital centers, or public and private research institutions. Today, The CCNLE recommends that it is important to expand the role of the MEC to other activities, like providing ethics consultation (Clinical practice and Patient's rights) and providing information and training to the staff. The members of the Ethics Committee must be independent, multidisciplinary and pluralist.</p>		

(4) Culture

The concept of culture refers to an interactive creative process that takes into account the diversity of creation. According to the definition proposed in the preamble of UNESCO's 2001 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, "culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs". This understanding of culture goes beyond the narrow vision associating it exclusively with heritage and artistic production and is clearly establishing the intrinsic link with identity. This approach underpins the more descriptive definition put forward by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). For the Committee culture includes "ways of life, language, oral and written literature, music and song, non-verbal communication, religion or belief systems, rites and ceremonies, sport and games, methods of production or technology, natural and man-made environments, food, clothing and shelter and the arts, customs and traditions through which individuals, groups of individuals and communities express their humanity and the meaning they give to their existence, and build their world view representing their encounter with the external forces affecting their lives.

RATIFICATION OF SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS			
	YES	NO	Comments
Has the State ratified the following international treaties:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expressions If yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments?		No	
Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage If yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments?	Yes		Date of deposit of instrument on 9/1/2007; type of instrument: acceptance No reservations reported.
Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage If yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments?	Yes		Date of deposit of instrument on 8/1/2007; type of instrument: acceptance. No reservations reported.

<p>Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</p> <p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order <p>Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments?</p>	Yes		<p>Date of deposit of instrument on 3/2/1983; type of instrument: ratification.</p> <p>No reservation reported.</p>
<p>Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property</p> <p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order <p>Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments?</p>	Yes		<p>Ratified on 25/8/1992</p> <p>No reservations reported.</p>
<p>UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects</p> <p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order - Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments? 		No	
<p>Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict</p> <p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order 	Yes		<p>Date of deposit of instrument on 1/6/1960; ratified</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments? 			
<p>Universal Copyright Convention</p> <p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order - Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments? 	Yes		<p>Lebanon accession to WIPO Convention was on September 30, 1986 and entry into force on December 30, 1986.</p> <p>The copyright law was enacted on 3 April, 1999 and published in the official gazette No 18/ 99 on 13 April, 1999. It entered into force on June 14, 1999.</p> <p>A decision implementing Article 25 of the Law on reproduction of computer programs by non lucrative institutions was adopted on 1 July, 2002 (Ministerial Decision No. 16/2002[see Decree 16-1 and Decree 16-2] and Lebanon Copyright Implementing Decision No 16. In November 2007, the Council of Ministers issued Decree No. 918/ 2007 implementing Article 66 of the Law on "Regulating the mode of establishment and functioning of collective management associations and companies and the manner in which the Lebanese Government shall control their activities and examine violations". The Decree was published in the official gazette on 15 November 2007 and entered into force on the same date.</p>
<p>Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works</p> <p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order - Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments? 	Yes		<p>Accession on February 19. 1946; Entry into force on September 30, 1947</p> <p>Law on the Protection of Literary and Artistic Property (No. 75 of April 3, 1999). The application of the law is valid for every production of the human spirit be it written, pictorial, sculptural, manuscript or oral, regardless of its value, importance or purpose and the mode or form of its expression, including books, archives, pamphlets, publications, printed material and other literary, scientific and artistic writings; lectures, addresses and other oral works; audiovisual works and photographs; musical compositions with or without words; dramatic or dramamusical works; choreographic works and pantomimes; drawings, sculpture, engraving, ornamentation, weaving and lithography; illustrations and drawings related to architecture; computer</p>

		<p>programs whatever their language and including preliminary work; maps, plans, sketches and three-dimensional works relative to geography, topography, architecture or science; any kind of plastic art work whether intended for industry or not (Chapter II: Protected works, article 2). Also derivative works are subject to the provisions of this Law including: translations, adaptations, transformations and arrangements of music; collections of literary or artistic works and compilations of data, whether in machine-readable or other form, provided that they are authorized by the copyright holder or his public or private successors and that by reason of the selection and arrangement of their contents they constitute intellectual creations (Chapter II: Protected works, article 3). However excluded from the protection provided by this Law are: daily news; laws, legislative decrees, decrees and decisions issued by all public authorities and official translations thereof; judicial decisions of all kinds and official translations thereof; speeches delivered in public assemblies and meetings; ideas, data and abstract scientific facts; artistic folkloric works of all kinds (however, works inspired by folklore shall enjoy protection).</p>
<p>Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations</p> <p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order - Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments? 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Signed on June 26, 1962; ratified on May 12, 1997; Entry into force on August 12, 1997.</p> <p>Article 35 of the Law on the Protection of Literary and Artistic Property (No. 75 of April 3, 1999) that producers of sound recordings, radio and television broadcasting organizations, publishing houses and performers such as actors, musicians, singers, members of musical groups, dancers, artists of puppet shows and circus artists shall be considered as holders of related rights. Protection is enjoyed in the following case: (a) if the producer of the sound recording is Lebanese or a national of a State party to the Rome Convention 1961-International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations, done at Rome on</p>

			<p>October 26, 1961; (b) if the first fixation of sound is undertaken in a State party to the above-mentioned Convention; (c) if the sound recording is first published in a State party to the above-mentioned Convention. If the sound recording is first published in a country that is not party to the Rome Convention and published afterwards, within 30 days of the first publication, in a State that is party to the said Convention, the said sound recording shall be considered as first published in the State party to the Convention.</p> <p>Article 37 states that performers shall enjoy protection in the following cases: (a) when their performance is undertaken in Lebanon or in a State party to the Rome Convention; (b) when their performance is fixed in a sound recording protected under Article 36 of this Law; (c) when their unfixed performance is fixed in a sound recording through a program protected under Article 38 of this Law.</p> <p>Article 38 cites that broadcasting organizations shall enjoy protection in the following two cases: (a) if the headquarters of the organization is in Lebanon or in a State party to the Rome Convention; (b) if the program is broadcast via a transmission device in Lebanon or in a State party to the Rome Convention.</p>
<p>Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms Against Unauthorized Duplication of Their Phonograms</p> <p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order <p>Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments?</p>	No		<p>Article 15 the Law on the Protection of Literary and Artistic Property (No. 75 of April 3, 1999) entitles the copyright holder to have the exclusive right to exploit the work commercially and, accordingly, to authorize or prohibit any copying, printing, recording and reproduction of the work in any manner or form including photography, cinematography, sound or visual recordings of any kind or any other form; any translation, adaptation, alteration, transformation, summarizing, reworking of the work or rearrangement of the music; the sale, distribution or rental of the work; the importation of copies of the work manufactured abroad; the public performance of the work;</p>

			<p>communication to the public of the work by wire or wireless means, whether through hertzian waves or the like or through coded or uncoded satellites, including the rebroadcast of normal television or radio broadcasts or satellite transmissions by any means of diffusion of sounds and images. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 15 of this Law, Article 39 states that performers shall have the right to authorize or prohibit the broadcasting or communication to the public of their unfixed performance unless the broadcasting or communication is a rebroadcast of a previously authorized broadcast; the fixation or recording of their unfixed performance on any tangible material; the copying, sale or rental of any recordings containing an unauthorized fixation of their performance. Article 42 gives the radio and television companies, establishments and corporations the right to authorize or prohibit the rebroadcasting of their programs by whatever means; the showing of their television programs in places where entrance is permitted upon payment of an entrance fee; the recording of their programs on tangible material for commercial purposes; the copying of unauthorized recordings of their radio and television programs. Producers of sound recordings shall have the right to authorize or prohibit direct and indirect copying as well as the rental of such recordings for commercial purposes (Article 43). Performers shall have the right, during their lifetime, to claim authorship of, and to object to any alteration or modification of, their performance. This right shall pass to the heirs of the performer after his death (article 44). Finally, publishers of written or printed works shall have the right to authorize or prohibit the copying of such works by means of photocopying or commercial exploitation (article 45).</p>
<p>WIPO Copyright Treaty - WCT If yes: - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into</p>		<p>No</p>	<p>The Lebanese Republic Working Party established on 14 April 1999. Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime circulated in 14 June 2001. Multilateral work is proceeding on the basis of a revised draft working party report circulated in October 2009.</p>

<p>the national legal order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments? 			
<p>WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights - TRIPS</p> <p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order - Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments? 		No	The EU and EFTA require Lebanon to adhere to the WTO Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (The TRIPs Agreement).
<p>WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty - WPPT</p> <p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order - Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments? 	Yes		<p>Signature on May 21, 1974. No ratification neither entry into force</p> <p>Law on the Protection of Literary and Artistic Property (No. 75 of April 3, 1999)</p>
<p>Brussels Convention Relating to the Distribution of Programme-Carrying Signals Transmitted by Satellite</p> <p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order - Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments? 	Yes		signed on 21 May 1974, not ratified yet.

UNIVERSAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECLARATIONS (SOFT LAW)			
Have the content and principles contained in the instruments listed below been explicitly incorporated/ integrated into national laws and / or regulations?	YES	NO	Comments
Universal Declaration of Human Rights	Yes		The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an integral part of the Lebanese Constitution text.
Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity	Yes		The content and principles of the Declaration are part of the Constitutional text (e.g. human rights and fundamental freedoms, right to expression), Law 35/2008 related to the Organization of the Ministry of Culture (Building partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and civil society), Law no.75 of 3 April 1999 on the Protection of Literary and Artistic Property (recognition of the rights of authors and artists), Publications Act 1962 and Broadcasts Law no.531/1996 (media pluralism).
Declaration on the Right to Development			
Stockholm Action Plan on Cultural Policies for Development (Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development)		No	
Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist		No	The status of Artist in the Lebanese laws still dates back to the Ottomans laws
Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples		No	
Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace	Yes		
CONSTITUTION			
Recognition of cultural diversity and multiculturalism of the country	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Fully met. The Constitution recognizes 18 different sects, which constitute the components of the Lebanese social and political systems, and consequently it recognizes the cultural characteristics of each sect.		

Incorporation of the obligation to respect linguistic and cultural diversity	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
Recognition in the constitution of human rights relating to culture without discrimination, direct or indirect	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - right to take part in cultural life - choice of and respect for cultural identities; access to cultural heritage; free and pluralistic information and communication; cultural cooperation - free exercise of creative activity; a person's right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he or she is the author 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>The Lebanese Constitution does not explicitly point out to the right to take part in cultural life in Lebanon; however it is implicitly recognized in the Preamble, particularly in point c (respect of public freedoms) and article 13 (freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and freedom of association).</p> <p>The Constitution recognizes 18 different sects, which constitute the components of the Lebanese social and political systems, and consequently the Constitution recognizes the cultural characteristics of each sect. Access to cultural heritage is open to all, as governed by the laws regulating the cultural heritage in Lebanon. As for free and pluralistic information and communication, it is guaranteed by the Constitution as per its article 13 (freedom of expression including writing, speaking and printing). Finally, the Constitution states that it is committed to the principles and charters of the UN Conventions related to human rights.</p> <p>The Constitution does not explicitly point out to a free exercise of creative activity. It is implicitly recognized through guaranteeing freedom of expression (article 13). The person's right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production is guaranteed by virtue of the Law on the Protection of Literary and Artistic Property (No. 75 of April 3, 1999).</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - right to freedom of opinion and expression, including the right to seek, receive and impart information 	<p>The freedom of expression is guaranteed by the Lebanese Constitution. Article 13 states that freedom of expression, whether oral, written or published, is guaranteed within the limits laid down in the law. As for the right to seek, receive and impart information, it is worth highlighting the efforts of the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform (OMSAR), which has established a portal www.informs.gov.lb, allowing citizens to receive information related to administrative procedures (ministries, municipalities, mechanics, etc.) and transactions that are of interest to the citizens. As part of the E-Strategy, public administrations do have now the capacity to receive requests from citizens about information, transactions or complaints. In October 2012, the Council of Ministers approved the proposed parliamentary law on the right of access to information in the public administrations. In November 2012, the Sub-Committee of the Administration and Justice Committee endorsed the proposal law on the right of access to information. This law would allow any citizen to access to any document in the administration except for certain matters relating to national security and emergency situations.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion 	<p>The texts of the Lebanese Constitution are applicable to Lebanese citizens in general without any discrimination on the grounds of sex, language, religion, age or color. Article 7 of the Constitution stipulates that the Lebanese are equal before the law without any discrimination among them with regard to their rights and obligations. These rights include: the right to equal treatment before the courts; the right to personal security and protection from harm and violence; the right to a national identity; the right to own private property; the right to inheritance; the right to education and vocational/technical training; the right to health care; the right to freedom of thought, religion and speech. These rights are reflected in the various national legislative texts (laws and regulations) of the country. On the other hand, Lebanon is a country of religious diversity. The constitution not only guarantees freedom of religion, but also divides governmental power between 18 different religious sects. However, all Lebanese citizens are subject to the laws pertaining to their religious affiliation for matters of personal significance such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, and child custody. This takes away the rights of those Lebanese citizens who are not members of any of the recognized religions. On February 11, 2009, the government allowed citizens to remove their religious association from their civil registry papers. However, since there are no civil courts in Lebanon, this move remains symbolic.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - right to freedom of association with others - right of peaceful assembly - right of everyone lawfully within the territory of a State to liberty of movement within the territory of that State <p>Does the constitution provide for limitations to the exercise of these rights? If yes, does it specify the conditions under which such limitations apply?</p> <p>Is any of the following grounds a valid basis for restricting the exercise of the above-listed rights: race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status?</p>	<p>The Lebanese Constitution confirms expressly in its Article 13 the freedom of association which is guaranteed within the domain of the law.</p> <p>The Lebanese Constitution confirms expressly in its Article 13 the freedom to assembly, which is guaranteed within the domain of the law.</p> <p>The Constitution does not explicitly point out to the right of everyone lawfully to the liberty of movement within the Lebanese State. However, the Preamble, point "i", gives to every Lebanese citizen the right to live on any part of the Lebanese territory and to enjoy this right within the domain of the law.</p> <p>No limitations to any of the above-mentioned rights are reported to be present in the Constitution as long as they are exercised within the domain of the law.</p> <p>None of the above-mentioned rights is subject to any of these restrictions (race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status). All Lebanese citizens as well as residents on the Lebanese territory enjoy equal rights and obligations before the law.</p>		
LEGISLATION			
<p>Existence of a ‘framework law’ for culture and sectoral laws (covering domains such as heritage, books and publishing, radio and television, cinema, music, visual and performing arts, etc.) promoting cultural pluralism and access to cultural life</p>	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	<p>Comments: Partially met There is not a single framework law for culture in Lebanon that covers all cited domains. The Law no.35/2008 regulating the Ministry of Culture specifies the scope and mandates of the Ministry including tangible and non-tangible heritage, historical properties, arts, literature, and other products of thought, in addition to cultural industries. The cultural pluralism and access to cultural life are governed by a number of laws related for instance to heritage, books and publishing, radio and television, cinema, music, etc.</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What section(s) of the law pertains to cultural expression? • If cultural expression is covered under different sections, do the sections present uniform guidelines? If conflicts exist, what are they? • Do the laws limit cultural expression? If so, in what ways? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do the laws limit who can participate in cultural expression? (yes/no) ○ Do the laws limit the forms a cultural expression can take? (yes/no) ○ Do the laws limit the publications and media coverage of cultural expression? (yes/no) ○ Which institution is granted the authority to impose limitations? Can its decisions be challenged and if so which organ is competent to receive such petitions? • Do the laws recognize the existence of a dominant culture? What is the place of minorities in the law? (yes/no) Are they allowed to freely express 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>The Lebanese Constitution states explicitly the freedom of expression (article 13) and respect of personal freedom (article 8). Cultural expression is foreseen in the laws of Information, books publishing, radio and television, cinema, etc.</p> <p>Unlike constitutional provisions and other protection procedures which guarantee freedom of the press and terrestrial broadcasting, the cinema and the theater (in addition to brochures) have been excluded from such mechanisms. According to the Decree-Law No. 55 in 1967, all brochures that are not published in journals require a permit in advance of the General Directorate of General Security, regardless of their content. As for the law which regulates the cinema since 1947, films imported or films produced locally are a pre-condition. The same law provides for the establishment of a committee composed of several public officials to deliberate and vote on authorizing, blocking or deleting scenes from any movie. It is worth saying that there is no legal provision that imposes prior censorship on films devoted to video films (within the dedicated shops) or by local television. On the other hand, the theater has not been subject to any prior restriction between 1926 (the date of the constitution of the Republic of Lebanon) and the year 1977 whereby the right to censorship was granted to the General Directorate of General Security. In this respect, similar to situation of the cinema, the violator is exposed preventing the show, closing the theater or imposing fines and prison sentences (for the producers) as determined by the courts. On that same day, a similar decree was issued (Legislative Decree No. 1 of 1977) related to the application of control over the printed media, however, it was cancelled later in the year 1986. In the meantime theater and cinema are still subject to prior censorship.</p> <p>The Constitution (issued on 23 May, 1926 with all its amendments) does not recognize the existence of any dominant culture over another. By recognizing 18 denominations in the Lebanese society, and emphasizing on the equality among all Lebanese citizens, the Constitution guarantees freedom of expression for all Lebanese on equal basis. Article 8 states that personal freedom is protected by the law and it is impossible to arrest or imprison or stop anyone nor can be determined guilt or punished except as set by law. Article 9 states that freedom of belief is absolute, the State respects all religions and beliefs, and guarantees freedom of worship under its protection provided it does not breach public order; it also guarantees to citizens from different sects the respect for their personal status system and</p>
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<p>themselves on an equal basis with the dominant group?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the laws recognize the right of everyone to access cultural heritage sites, museums, cinemas, and other spaces where different cultural expressions are being performed without discrimination of any kind? (yes/no) • Do the laws foresee the adoption of measures, including awareness-raising and subsidies, to render cultural sites and activities available and accessible to all? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If so, what are those measures? ○ Are women and persons with disabilities among the targeted groups? (yes/no) ○ What measures are foreseen regarding persons with disabilities? • Do the laws mandate the adoption of appropriate steps to ensure that the protection of intellectual property 	<p>religious interests.</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Article 3 of Law 35/2008 (Organization of the Ministry of Culture) states that among the tasks entrusted to the Ministry of Culture is to "promote citizens acquisition for competencies that are necessary to contribute to the cultural development, the development of cultural industries and the economy of knowledge". Article 20 refers to the establishment of the "Special Fund to support the cultural activities and industries" in order to support the programs and activities in the areas of concern to the Directorate General of Cultural Affairs, and to contribute to the financing of productions of cultural industries and the knowledge economy and its activities, in particular to support films, documents and audio-visual publications, and the marketing of these outputs. Article 21 refers highlights the establishment of a "Special Fund for the Heritage as well as the heritage and historical related facilities" to finance public and private projects to search for, explore and detect heritage, historical and archaeological related sites, groups and facilities for the purpose of their protection, restoration, and development for public benefit.</p> <p>Article 7 of the Law 35/2008 (Organization of the Ministry of Culture) highlights measures in point (d) related to the organization of conferences, seminars and meetings and seminars at various levels, point (h) to encourage and contribute to the organization of fairs and festivals in the fields of competence of the Ministry of Culture, and point (i) in the organization of games prizes and incentives. These measures are implemented through the various directorates of the Ministry.</p>
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<p>rights does not constitute an unreasonable or discriminatory barrier to access by persons with disabilities to cultural materials? (yes/no)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the laws require the participation of different cultural groups in decision-making to ensure that policies and programmes developed in these domains are culturally appropriate? (yes/no) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there any limitations? (yes/no) 	<p>Measures, where available, do not target neither exclude specific groups within the society.</p> <p>There are no specific measures that are foreseen for the persons with disabilities. Article 50 of the Public Budget law states in particular that children with disabilities under 18 years old can access to the archeological and tourism places with half tariff.</p>		
<p>Existence of laws specifying the obligation of State institutions at different levels in terms of respecting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights relating to culture that are enshrined in the constitution</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>Do the laws provide for the adoption of policies? If so what are the guiding principles? (yes/no)</p> <p>Is respect for cultural diversity and non-discrimination among the guiding principles for the development of policies? (yes/no)</p> <p>Do the laws foresee the adoption of special measures to ensure access to and participation</p>	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>Not met.</p> <p>The Law No. 215 dated 2/4/1993 and its modifications established the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education. The Ministry's mandate include protecting antiquities, heritage, historical property, arts, literature and intellectual yield, cultural industries, and management of cultural property</p>		

<p>of members of disadvantaged groups on an equal footing? If so which are these measures?</p> <p>Do the laws require the sharing of information and the implementation of targeted educational activities to ensure that disadvantaged groups are able to enjoy and exercise these rights? (yes/no)</p>			
<p>Existence of legislation recognizing an equal right in the establishment of non-profit cultural bodies (cultural foundations and associations)</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>Is there a law regulating the establishment of non-profit cultural bodies?</p> <p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does it prohibit the establishment of certain non-profit cultural bodies? (yes/no) If yes of what types? • Are minorities, migrants, indigenous peoples, members of ethnic, linguistic, religious and other minorities, persons with disabilities and women allowed to establish their own non-profit cultural bodies? (yes/no) • Are members of the above groups allowed to participate on an equal basis 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>There is no specific law that regulates the establishment of non-profit cultural bodies. They are subject to NGO Law dated 1909 as well as specific laws and regulations of the MOYS. Minorities, members of ethnic, linguistic, religious and other minorities, persons with disabilities and women can establish their own cultural bodies as per NGO Law 1909 and other prevailing regulations. Since non-profit cultural bodies are subject to the NGO law (1909) and those of the Ministry of Youth and Sport, founders should have the Lebanese citizenship. Migrant workers can establish formal cultural bodies of their own; they can also be members of cultural bodies. Exception to this case is the domestic migrant workers who lack a number of essential rights not foreseen in the Labor Law. In parallel, linguistic cultural bodies are found, affiliated to their respective embassies.</p> <p>All above-mentioned groups can participate on an equal basis with others in non profit cultural activities, except for migrant domestic workers whose participation highly depend on the employers' willingness to provide them with such rights.</p> <p>The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities is the government entity in charge of regulating the recognition of the establishment of all non-profit bodies and associations including cultural</p>		

<p>with others in non-profit cultural bodies? (yes/no)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which institution decides on requests for the establishment of non-profit cultural bodies? Is non-discrimination among the criteria governing the creation and functioning of such bodies? (yes/no) • Do existing laws establish quotas for the participation of disadvantaged groups, including members of ethnic, linguistic, religious and other minorities, persons with disabilities and women, on the boards of public non-profit cultural bodies? (yes/no) • Do existing laws encourage the creation of diverse non-profit cultural bodies representing different cultural facets of the society? If so, how? 	<p>oriented ones (Law 1909). The MOYS has also a number of laws that regulate specific types of associations that are oriented towards youth, which may also include objectives related to culture. Informal cultural associations or groups can be also found.</p>		
<p>Existence of laws/regulations/decrees regulating public assistance and subsidies for the cultural sector with particular emphasis on cultural minorities and disadvantaged groups</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
	<p>Comments: Not met. The Ministry of Culture is home to two funds: 1- The Support Fund for Cultural Activities and Industries: a. It supports programs and activities in the fields covered by the Directorate General of Cultural Affairs b. It contributes to the funding of the outcomes and activities of the cultural industries and knowledge economy, especially supporting the production of movies, documents and audio-visual publications c. It contributes to the commercialization of these outcomes 2- The Fund for Antiquities and Traditional and Historical Monuments: It funds public and private programs aiming at:</p>		

	<p>a. Searching for archaeological, traditional and historical sites and collections, excavating them and uncovering them</p> <p>b. Protecting, restoring, developing and equipping archaeological, traditional and historical sites and collections in order to use them for the public interest;</p> <p>c. Developing the collections of movable archaeological property and restoring them.</p>
<p>Is there public funding foreseen for non-profit cultural activities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is non-discrimination among the criteria for the allocation of funding? • Are certain groups or the institutions prohibited from receiving public funds? • Do laws mandate public funding of activities to support the cultural expression and participation of different cultural minorities? <p>Is there legislation providing for the adoption of appropriate measures to enable persons with disabilities to have the opportunity to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential, not only for their own benefit, but also for the enrichment of society? (yes/no)</p> <p>If yes,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which are these measures? • Which institution/body is deciding thereon? Are persons with disabilities included in the composition of this institution? • Are persons with disabilities duly informed of the existence of such opportunities? 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>Laws do not specifically specify in their provisions any mention to cultural minorities</p>

<p>Existence of laws/regulations/decrees recognizing the specific cultural and linguistic identities of different cultural groups, including persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, and introducing appropriate measures to enable persons belonging to these groups to have the opportunity to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential.</p>	<p>Fully met Partially met Not met</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do laws/regulations/decrees recognize the specific cultural and linguistic identities of disadvantaged groups, including those of persons with disabilities? (yes/no) What measures do laws/regulations/decrees introduce to enable persons belonging to these groups to have the opportunity to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential? In what ways? 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>Lebanese laws do not distinguish between groups. They are applied to all Lebanese citizens, without any discrimination.</p> <p>Law 220/2000 (Rights of Persons with Disabilities)</p>		
<p>Existence of laws/regulations/decrees to create propitious environments for cultural diversity and creativity: promotion of participation of young people in cultural life, access to cultural venues infrastructures and materials for women, persons with disabilities, minorities, indigenous peoples and migrants</p>	<p>Fully met Partially met Not met</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there laws/regulations/decrees promoting cultural expression and creativity? 	<p>Comments: Not met</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there laws/regulations/decrees promoting the participation of young people in cultural life? • Are there existing laws/regulations/decrees mandating and promoting respect for and advancement of women in the field of culture? • Are there existing laws/regulations/decrees promoting the cultural expressions and traditions of indigenous peoples? • Are there laws/regulations/decrees to facilitate and promote access of persons with disabilities to the following cultural resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cultural materials ○ Television programmes, films, theatre and other cultural activities ○ Places for cultural performances or services such as theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries and tourism services and as far as possible to monuments and sites of national cultural importance <p>Do laws recognize respect for cultural diversity as a key directive for cultural activities managed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regional/provincial authorities • local/municipal authorities <p>If yes,</p>	<p>Article 50 of the Public Budget Law states that children under 18 years old as well as children with disabilities can access to the archeological and touristic sites with half tariffs.</p>
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<p>What are the criteria set forth? Do such laws promote the inclusion of different disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities? (yes/no) Is the institution monitoring and evaluating the implementation of these activities mandated to look at the safeguarding of cultural diversity and the promotion of inclusion as quality criteria?</p>			
<p>Existence of laws/regulations/decrees to create a propitious and diversified environment for the development of inclusive local cultural industries (e.g. regulations on company ownership, broadcasting content and, levels of concentration of ownership both public and private)</p>	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What laws/regulations/decrees, if any, promote the development of inclusive local cultural industries (e.g. regulations on company ownership)? (yes/no) • What laws/regulations/decrees, if any, promote an environment for diversified broadcasting content reflecting the identities and/or traditions of cultural minorities and disadvantaged groups? • Are there laws/regulations/decrees regulating content in cultural industries? If so, please describe. 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p>		
<p>Comments: Not met</p>			

Existence of laws/regulations/decrees providing for the monitoring of implementation of cultural policies, ensuring in particular that cultural content does not reproduce prejudices and negative stereotypes	Fully met Partially met Not met		
	Comments: Not met		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What laws/regulations/decrees, if any, monitor the implementation of cultural policies, ensuring in particular that cultural content does not reproduce prejudices and negative stereotypes? • What are the penalties for failing to comply with the law/regulation/decrees? • Are there public funds to support monitoring efforts? 	Comments/Responses:		
Existence of laws/regulations/decrees promoting equal access to information about the content and means of implementation of policies in the domain of culture	Fully met Partially met Not met		
	Comments: Not met		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What laws/regulations/decrees, if any, promote equal access information about the content and means of implementation of policies in the domain of culture? • What funding is earmarked for this purpose? • How is this done? • Is the process monitored and if so, by whom and how? • Is there special mention of the groups that should benefit from targeted 	Comments/Responses:		

<p>measures?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are persons with disabilities explicitly mentioned? 			
POLICY FRAMEWORK			
Existence of national policy/ strategic framework/action plan for culture	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Not met		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do public policies and sectoral strategies incorporate the main obligations concerning the human rights relating to culture of all groups, including persons with disabilities, men and women, marginalized groups, indigenous population, ethnic and national minorities? 	Comments/Responses:		
Existence of policies/measures to promote access to and participation in cultural life by minorities and other disadvantaged groups	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Not met		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which policies exist? • Which institution implements these measures? • Does it have a budget allocated? • Which are the mechanism to ensure participation of minorities and disadvantaged groups? 	Comments/Responses:		
Existence of policies/strategic framework for action to promote cultural development and creativity (arts education, social status of artist) among cultural minorities and disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Not met		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there channels to allow the diffusion of artistic production of cultural minorities and disadvantaged groups? • Are there policies guaranteeing access of artists with disabilities to financial help (for instance scholarships), use of cultural spaces for their production? • Are there policies explicitly directed to train minorities in art expression? (yes/no) 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>There are no specific channels that allow the diffusion of artistic production. It is mainly done through cultural oriented civil society groups.</p> <p>Despite the absence of policies, non government initiatives carried out by the civil society endeavors to provide artists with disabilities financial support to carry out their skills.</p>		
<p>Inclusion of culture in national development plans, e.g. poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs), the United Nation Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), etc.</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK</p>			
<p>Existence of mechanisms to consult representatives of different cultural groups in the formulation and evaluation of cultural policies,</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>Are there established mechanisms for consultation with representatives of cultural groups?</p> <p>If yes,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do these cover all stages of a policy and/or programming process (namely, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation)? (yes/no) If no, which stage do such consultations pertain to? • Are there quotas or other indicators to 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p>		

<p>measure the level of participation of such groups in those consultations? If yes, please specify. Are such consultations foreseen at the following levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National ○ Regional ○ Local 			
<p>Existence of mechanisms mandated to receive and examine communications alleging discrimination in access to and participation in cultural life</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>Is there a mechanism mandated to receive communications on alleged discrimination against ethnic, linguistic, religious and other minorities and disadvantaged groups, such as persons with disabilities?</p> <p>If so, is there provision for awareness-raising on the existence and mandate of such mechanism targeting particularly disadvantaged groups?</p>	<p>Comments: Not met</p> <p>Comments/Responses:</p>		

(5) Communication and Information

Among UNESCO's core mandates as prescribed by its Constitution are to foster "the unrestricted pursuit of objective truth", "the free exchange of ideas and knowledge" and "the free flow of ideas by word and image." This includes the promotion of the right to freedom of expression, as set out in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*⁹ and the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*¹⁰. An early elaboration of these standards was the 1991 Windhoek Declaration, which was subsequently endorsed by UNESCO¹¹ and acknowledged by the UN General Assembly. These standards were developed by UNESCO into a tool to assess the overall environment for media development in a country known as the *Media Development Indicators: a framework for assessing media development* (MDI).¹² The MDIs define the right to freedom of expression as encompassing a media that is free, pluralistic and independent, one that embraces independence, is accessible to all sectors of society, especially those who are marginalized, and conveys diverse voices; and a media that represents an interpretation of international human rights standards, which countries are required to respect, because of their status as part of international law. The MDIs were formally endorsed by the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) at its 26th session in March 2008, and are recognized as an important tool for guiding media development efforts. The MDIs provide an assessment of the various gaps and weaknesses in the media development framework, against which progress can then be mapped.

⁹ UN General Assembly Resolution 217A (III), 10 December 1948.

¹⁰ UN General Assembly Resolution 2200A (XXI), 16 December 1966, entered into force 23 March 1976.

¹¹ Endorsed by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 26th Session.

¹² Available at: http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.phpURL_ID=26032&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html.

RATIFICATION OF SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS			
	YES	NO	Comments
Has the State ratified the following international treaties:			
WIPO Copyright Treaty - WCT	Yes		Lebanon accession to WIPO Convention was on September 30, 1986 and entry into force on December 30, 1986
WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights - TRIPS	Yes		Member countries of the WTO are automatically bound by the agreement
Brussels Convention Relating to the Distribution of Programme-Carrying Signals Transmitted by Satellite	Yes		Signed on 21 May 1974 but not ratified.
RATIFICATION OF SPECIFIC REGIONAL INSTRUMENTS			
Has the State ratified any regional treaties dealing with communication and information?	YES	NO	Comments
If yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order. - Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments? 	Comments/Responses: No		
UNIVERSAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECLARATIONS (SOFT LAW)			
Have the content and principles contained in the instruments listed below been explicitly incorporated into national laws and / or regulations?	YES	NO	Comments
Universal Declaration of Human Rights	Yes		The Lebanese Constitution abides by the International conventions and treaties (Introduction, parag. b).
Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to	Yes		Lebanon has so far achieved mixed results with regard to the Recommendation on the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and

Cyberspace			<p>Universal Access to Cyberspace adopted in 2003. The country had already some policy instruments in place that correspond to certain provisions of the Recommendation, in particular:</p> <p>(1) Development of an e-Strategy (2008) which implementation is based upon 4 pillars: (a) e-reform, (b) e-citizen, (c) e-business, and (d) e-community;</p> <p>(2) Development of multilingual content and systems (while Arabic is the official language, English and French languages are mainly taught in schools and used in the cyberspace); radios, televisions and newspapers are accessible through internet;</p> <p>(3) Improving the quality of access to networks and services through further developing the telecommunications infrastructures nationwide;</p> <p>(4) Developing the E-Public-Private Partnerships initiatives.</p>
World Summit on the Information Society Declaration	Yes		<p>The Strategic vision of the Lebanese Government complies with the WSIS Declaration , in particular: (1) Lebanon's policy to use the enabling building blocks of the information survey to steer the wheel towards a knowledge-based economy; (2) the action plan of Lebanon to include government agencies, private sector, civil society, media and multilateral organizations that play a proactive role in the evolution towards an Information Society, supported by ICTs and traditional communication media; (3) projects and action plans identified within the framework of a national e-Strategy; (4) an all-encompassing new e-Government strategy.</p>
Open Educational Resources Declaration		No	<p>Open access to education is a recent movement in Lebanon; however, there has already been positive and steady feedback on it from variety of stakeholders; librarians, academics and researchers - all support and participate in OA movement.</p>
Code of Ethics for the information Society	Yes		<p>Lebanon is a country where citizens have the right to freedom of expression, including accessibility of citizens and residents to Internet. Media and information literacy is accessible. A large number of electronic public-private partnerships endeavor to promote the use of internet for social and development purposes. The Lebanese Government developed an e-Strategy which is to be</p>

			implemented over four phases expected to be finalized in 2015. Finally, a number of decrees reflects some of the recommendations stated in the Code of Ethics for the Information Society: Amended Decree Law no. 5704/2001 and Decree Law no. 16852/2006 related to reduction of tariffs and charges of broadband services through DSL, as well as local and international internet lines and leased lines; Decree Law no. 377/1989 regarding the rules of licensing a private radio station, international leased lines rental fees and auditing.
LEGISLATION			
Laws and regulations defining the rights and obligations of institutions producers of information (i.e. statistical secrecy)	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	<p>Comments: Partially met There is not a single legislative text in Lebanon that regulates the production of information. The laws identified in this regard are: the Press Law (1962), the Broadcasting Law (1994), the Satellite Broadcasting Law (1996), the Telecommunications Law (2002), the Law implemented by Decree of the President of the Republic no.1793/1979 (creation of the Central Administration for Statistics). In addition, are found of relevance to institutions producers of information: Law 3/1959 and Decree 2894/1959 whereby each Ministry is required to collect statistics relevant for its activities and to supply them to the Central Administration for Statistics; and, Article 146 of the Code on Money and Credit, the Central Bank of Lebanon is authorized to collect the necessary data for the compilation of statistics from banks and any financial institution.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there a right to or freedom to information law that gives individuals a right to request and receive information held by government? 	<p>Comments/Responses: Since there is no single information law, however, there are some laws that include provisions that give the right to individuals to receive information. As a step forward to facilitate free access of information on government related services and citizens-related obligations, the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform (OMSAR) established a portal www.informs.gov.lb, allowing citizens to receive information related to administrative procedures (including ministries, municipalities, mechanics, etc.) and transactions that are of interest to the citizens. As part of the E-Strategy developed by OMSAR as well, public administrations do have now the capacity to receive requests from citizens about information,</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are these laws and regulation controlled/supervised by an independent regulatory body or by a direct governmental entity (Ministry, etc.)? • Is the freedom to information law widely publicized in official and minority languages? Using methods of media accessible to marginalized or otherwise alienated populations? 	<p>transactions or complaints. The monitoring mechanism of such initiatives is yet to be enforced. It is worth noting that in October 2012, the Council of Ministers approved a draft law on the right of access to information in the public administrations. In November 2012, the Parliamentary sub-committee on Administration and Justice endorsed this law, which is expected to allow any citizen to access to any document in the administration except for certain matters relating to national security and emergency situations. Law not ratified yet by the Parliament.</p> <p>There is no independent regulatory body or a single governmental entity that regulates information. Instead, each sector-related ministry controls/ supervises freedom/ access to information.</p> <p>Despite the absence of an information law, it is to note that legal texts are mainly available in Arabic (the official language of the Lebanese Government). Another number of laws can be found in other languages (English, French, Armenian, etc.) if these laws are part of a collaborative programme whether national or international (government, civil society groups, and international organizations).</p>		
<p>Laws and regulations defining the rights of users of information (individuals and institutions)</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>Comments: Partially met. Laws such as: Telecommunications Law no.431/2002, the Broadcasting Law dated no.382 dated 1994, the Satellite Broadcasting Law no.531 dated 1996, the Press (Publications) Law no.104 dated 1962.</p>			

<p>Are the restrictions regarding freedom of information, whether based on national security, hate speech, privacy, contempt of court laws and obscenity clear and narrowly defined in law and justifiable as necessary in a democratic society, in accordance with international law?</p>	<p>Comments/Responses: The restrictions or limitations to freedom of information are mainly related to national security or legal issues. Regarding media and freedom of information, the Law 104/62 states that the printing press, the press, the library and the publishing house are free, however such freedom is subject to the provisions of the prevailing laws (article 1). Restrictions mentioned in Article 56 include proceedings of secret investigations, prosecutions and trials related to divorce, facts and discussions of the meetings of the parliamentary committees (unless the Committee decides otherwise); proceedings of the Central Inspection Department investigation (except for decisions and communications issued by it.); files belonging to one of the public administrations and tagged character is a "secret" which would if published that endanger the safety of the state and its internal security and external; proceedings of libel lawsuits in cases where there may be no proof; proceedings of legal cases that prohibiting dissemination Court; reports, books, letters, articles, pictures and news contrary to the ethics and morals. Also, If what is published would endanger the safety of the state or its unity or its sovereignty or its borders, or it would contempt for one of the recognized religions in the country, or what it would incite sectarian or racism issue (article 62).</p>								
<p>Existence of a legal framework protecting and promoting freedom of expression and information, based on international best practice standards and developed in participation with civil society</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #fce4d6;"> <th data-bbox="798 797 1167 834" style="text-align: center;">Fully met</th> <th data-bbox="1167 797 1356 834" style="text-align: center;">Partially met</th> <th data-bbox="1356 797 1950 834" style="text-align: center;">Not met</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="798 834 1950 1227"> <p>Comments Partially met. There is no legal framework reported to be the reference for protecting and promoting freedom of expression and information, though the Lebanese Constitution guarantees this freedom of expression as a key principle. It is worth highlighting two initiatives whereby the civil society participates to the formulation of a legal framework. The first example is the Law 382/94 (the Broadcasting Law), which was approved following a number of parliamentary consultations where the recommendations of the civil society were incorporated into the law, including freedom of expression, pluralism, presence of private and local broadcasting stations, etc. Also, OMSAR in collaboration with civil society groups discussed the necessity for a legal framework on protecting the freedom of information in the context of AFKAR Programme.</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Fully met	Partially met	Not met	<p>Comments Partially met. There is no legal framework reported to be the reference for protecting and promoting freedom of expression and information, though the Lebanese Constitution guarantees this freedom of expression as a key principle. It is worth highlighting two initiatives whereby the civil society participates to the formulation of a legal framework. The first example is the Law 382/94 (the Broadcasting Law), which was approved following a number of parliamentary consultations where the recommendations of the civil society were incorporated into the law, including freedom of expression, pluralism, presence of private and local broadcasting stations, etc. Also, OMSAR in collaboration with civil society groups discussed the necessity for a legal framework on protecting the freedom of information in the context of AFKAR Programme.</p>		
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is freedom of expression legislation in line with Article 19 of the UDHR or does it contain any limitations? 	<p>Comments/Responses: UDHR is a key international convention mentioned in the preamble of the Lebanese Constitution, and consequently abides by its contents without any limitations.</p>								

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any independent press complaints commissions and/or autonomous media-run professional conduct supervisory bodies? • Do the laws protect and promote freedom of expression and information for all persons? • Are there laws in place for journalists, associated media personnel and media organizations to practice their profession in safety and with undue harassment? • Are there specific laws in place that prohibit, and provide for the punishment of, all forms of violence against journalists? • Are regulatory mechanisms in place – both rules and regulators that have sufficient resources, formal powers and political weight – to prevent abuse of dominant positions (such as State ownership) and other commercial abuses? 	<p>A Lebanese Higher Press Council was created by the Law of the Press 1962. This Council was entrusted with the power of dealing with all problems of common interest to journalism and journalists in general. On the other hand, the audiovisual Lebanese media operate under Law 1994 (Broadcasting Law) that established a Higher Council for Audiovisual Media. The Council's decisions are advisory.</p> <p>The freedom of expression is guaranteed by the Lebanese Constitution. Article 13 states that freedom of expression, whether oral, written or published, is guaranteed within the limits laid down in the law. Although freedom of the media is clearly stated in the Constitution, it should be noted that it remains as a general principle, which is actually subject to the different legal frameworks approved by the Parliament, in particular the press law (1962), the Broadcasting Law (1994), the Satellite Broadcasting Law (1996) and the Penal Code.</p> <p>The printed media operates under the 1962 law of the press. This law provides the press with minimal formal state censorship and established the limits within which the freedom of the press might be exercised. The 1962 law organized the Lebanese journalists into two separate syndicates: the Lebanese union of publishers, including owners of press licenses, and the Lebanese Union of Editors including all active journalists. The Broadcasting Law no.382/ 1994 covers locally transmitting radios and televisions, while the Satellite Broadcasting no.531/1996 contains a number of restrictions.</p> <p>Various Lebanese laws punish all forms of violence against any citizen, including journalists.</p> <p>The Penal Code no.340 dated 1/3/1943, the Press Law of 1962, as well as the internal regulations of the syndicates (press, audiovisual).</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there laws/regulations to promote pluralism and for licensing of frequencies to promote diversity? • Does the law guarantee the editorial independence and freedom of expression for journalists? 	<p>The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, established by virtue of Law no.431/2002 (Ministry of Telecommunications) is entitled as per Article 15 (Radio Frequency Spectrum) to develop an annual plan for the allocation of radio frequencies used for commercial communications, radio and TV transmission and operations, and wireless telecommunications of public administrations and institutions as well as all other natural and legal persons including amateurs. The use of radio frequencies for radio and TV transmission services is determined jointly with the Ministry of Information. Also, article 18 (principle of equality and competition) ensures that telecommunication services are made available to all without any discrimination or restriction.</p> <p>The Law 104/62 (Press Law) states that the printing press, the press, the library and the publishing house are all free, however this freedom is subject to the provisions of the prevailing laws (article 1). Accordingly, article 56 refers to restrictions including: displaying proceedings of secret investigations, prosecutions and trials related to divorce, facts and discussions of the meetings of the parliamentary committees (unless the Committee decides otherwise); proceedings of the Central Inspection Department investigation (except for decisions and communications issued by it.); files belonging to one of the public administrations and tagged character is a "secret" which would, if published, endanger the safety of the state and its internal and internal security; proceedings of libel lawsuits in cases where there may be no proof; proceedings of legal cases which dissemination is prohibited; reports, books, letters, articles, pictures and news that are against ethics and morals. Also, If what is published would endanger the safety of the state or its unity or its sovereignty or its borders, or it would contempt for one of the recognized religions in the country, or what it would incite sectarian or racism issue, or include contempt against foreign head of state (article 62).</p>		
<p>Regulations preventing undue concentration and ensuring plurality and transparency of ownership and content across State, private and community media</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there specific limitations on percentage of national and/or international ownership of specific media outlets and/or multimedia conglomerates? yes 	<p>Comments/Responses: The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, established by virtue of Law no.431/2002 (Ministry of Telecommunications) is entitled as per Article 15 (Radio Frequency Spectrum) to develop an annual plan for the allocation of radio frequencies used for commercial communications, radio and TV transmission and operations, and wireless telecommunications</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the country have an appropriate level of connection to national and international gateways for both Internet and telephony? Yes 	of public administrations and institutions as well as all other natural and legal persons including amateurs. The use of radio frequencies for radio and TV transmission services is determined jointly with the Ministry of Information.		
Regulatory frameworks enable different groups of society (particularly those disadvantaged) to run their own media (community media) or have legally determined regular access to mainstream media	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the State actively promote a diverse mix of public, private and community media? Is there specific community media legislation? Is there specific public broadcasting legislation? Besides legislation, are there any incentives/specific initiatives to enable different groups of society (particularly those disadvantaged) to run their own media (community media) or have legally determined regular access to mainstream media? 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>Partially met.</p> <p>There are no restrictions preventing the development of a new media, but there are laws regulating the creation of the different mass media. The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, established by virtue of Law no.431/2002, is legally mandated to liberize, regulate and develop telecommunications in Lebanon, and to protect telecommunication users rights. Also, article 30 of Law 1960 gives the right to any Lebanese resident in Lebanon, enjoying his/her civil and political rights, not convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor of the infamous offenses enumerated in the election law, to establish his/her newspaper. However this freedom is subject to the provisions stated in the law especially regarding the nature of the newspaper to be established (political, cultural, etc.).</p> <p>There are no restrictions preventing the development of a new media, but there are laws regulating the creation of the different mass media. Article 30 of Law 1960 gives the right to any Lebanese resident in Lebanon, enjoying his/her civil and political rights, not convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor of the infamous offenses enumerated in the election law, to establish his/her newspaper. However this freedom is subject to the provisions stated in the law especially regarding the nature of the newspaper to be established (political, cultural, etc.).</p> <p>All types of media should comply to the Broadcasting Law no.382/1994</p> <p>There are no incentives reported to be available for community media. However, there are municipalities that run their own local televisions where information of relevance to the municipal services is broadcasted.</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there established quotas or targets reserving part of the frequency spectrum for community broadcasters (an example of this might be a reservation of 20% of the FM frequency for community radios)? • Are there cross-subsidies and preferential pricing rules specifically for community broadcasters such as direct public subsidies or grants? <p>Are there codes of conduct for broadcasters that impose obligations of fairness, balance and impartiality?</p>	<p>In general, there is a quota system of radio frequencies established by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (established by virtue of Law no.431/2002 and according to the Broadcasting Law no.382/1994. The Law 431/2002 mandates the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority by virtue of Article 15 (Radio Frequency Spectrum) to develop an annual plan for the Allocation of radio frequencies used for commercial communications, radio and TV transmission and operations, and wireless telecommunications of public administrations and institutions as well as all other natural and legal persons including amateurs. The use of radio frequencies for radio and TV transmission services is determined jointly with the Ministry of Information. Also, article 18 (principle of equality and competition) ensures that telecommunication services are made available to all without any discrimination or restriction.</p> <p>Information not available</p> <p>There are a number of codes of conduct for broadcasters, however they are not binding. The Lebanese press Syndicate resorted to self-monitoring on several occasions based on declarations and statements committed by journalists, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the commitment in 10/04/1958, the first experience in the field of self-monitoring, following the incidents of 1958 that divided Lebanon between two clans, a matter that clearly emerged in Lebanese newspapers; 2. the code of honor held on 02/06/1965, which came to declare "the principles that may inspire the Lebanese press in carrying out its activity"; 3. The first charter of ethics approved unanimously by the General Assembly of the Lebanese Press on 02.04.1974, which is similar to "the principles of the Press" set by the American Society of Newspaper Editors.
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	4. the Charter of the Solidarity approved by the Bar Syndicate on 16.3.1975 and ratified by the Extraordinary General Assembly dated 04.10.1975. The importance of this Charter lies in transforming the Council into an institutionalized organization. It features all the codes of ethics, lays down the rules adhered to by the journalist in his/her relationship (with the Syndicate, or fellow journalists), and defines the role of the union in the implementation of its provisions.		
POLICY FRAMEWORK			
Existence of national information/knowledge society policy framework that establishes social inclusion as one of its development objectives	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Not met. No information/ knowledge society policy framework was reported to exist at national level. The Ministry of Social Affairs is mandated to work on social inclusion; however, these efforts have not been mainstreamed yet into an information/knowledge society framework. Partnering with the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS), the public Administration within the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, could be an option to accelerate the process of establishing a social inclusion based policy framework. By law, the CAS is in charge of collecting, processing, producing and disseminating social and economic statistics at the national level and of providing all users with evidence-based information for decision making. The CAS is also in charge of the technical supervision of statistics produced by other ministries and public administrations as well as improving methods and harmonizing statistics. All CAS activities are governed by Law No 1793/79.		
Existence of guidelines for creation and archiving of records in all institutions and for information and data preservation	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments/Responses: Many initiatives have taken place since the early 2000s to digitize public information in the Lebanese Government. The National Archives and the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform (OMSAR) worked jointly on the digitization and indexing of all historic documents that were available at the Directorate in 2005. Furthermore, many government agencies' sites were initiated as information portals with informs.gov.lb (OMSAR's information portal), a centralized nationwide government information portal. Also, OMSAR is currently working on a Workflow, Document Management and Archiving System (WFS/DMS) Enterprise Project to be implemented by the Lebanese Government. The WFS/DMS and the Archiving System Enterprise Project will select a single product that will cater for the government		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the archiving of record or information based on any differentiated categories related to sectors/sections of the population? • Does the archival of records consist of systems that respect the national origin, sex, political beliefs, ethnicity and status of all persons? • Is the process for obtaining information accessible and understandable to all people including those living in remote areas? Speaking languages different than the official language? Persons with disabilities? 	<p>workflow, document management and archiving automation needs in a systematic standardized and cost-effective approach.</p> <p>The Department of Statistics of the Directorate General of Personal Status (of the Ministry of Interior) assume tasks related to conducting statistical investigations, verifying incoming personal status on a monthly basis, sending copies of births and deaths registries to the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Social Affairs, conducting annual list of the Lebanese populations, carrying out all demographic studies required by the Personal Status Department (article 11). The Personal Status Law 1951 (and its amendments) contains the provisions to the registration of the personal status documents relating to birth, marriage, divorce, annulment of marriage and death, change of residence, as well as switch of creed or religion. It is to note that since Lebanese recognizes 18 religious denominations, the Lebanese population is archived according to these denominations. Parliamentarian and municipal elections are examples of the archiving information system used in Lebanon.</p> <p>Accessibility depends on the type of information needed. As for public-related information, and in particular transactions, and despite the significant Government efforts made until today to improve information management and accessibility, in particular through internet and media, not all Lebanese citizens are aware about the fact that information related to public services can be retrieved in most of the time from the electronic websites and portals relevant to each public administration. For instance, The Ministry of Labour launched early 2013 the official website of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF): www.cnss.gov.lb which constitutes a fundamental pillar to enable direct communication via the Internet between the NSSF and all components of the Lebanese society. The site includes transaction models for employers, drivers, /public notaries (<i>moukhtar</i>), university students, doctors and maritime workers; and clearance and end of service indemnity. It also includes lists of medical drugs adopted by the NSSF, and those of contractors with the NSSF, addresses of NSSF centers and offices. It also includes statistical data on the number of secured persons disaggregated by sex and age groups, the number of institutions, the overall rate of wages, and the financial situation of the Fund's branches. The site allows for receiving complaints via e-mail, clarification and legal advice, in addition to the latest news of the NSSF. Therefore, more targeted awareness raising actions are needed to improve the efficiency for the usage of these available tools. The information is mainly available in Arabic language (official language). People living in remote areas can have access to such information either through the websites or from the local branches of the related public administration. Same is applicable to persons with disabilities.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the costs associated with obtaining information burdensome on persons with lesser means? Can fees and other costs be waived? • Are there policies that require information preservation and put in place data preservation systems for critical identity and public information? (yes/no) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If so, do they foresee the training of relevant professionals? (yes/no) 	<p>Information available via internet is available free of charge. Such information includes public transactions, addresses of key public administrations and ministries, etc. As for technical information available at Ministry's level, there are costs associated with retrieving the data. These costs are usually at affordable prices.</p> <p>Policies are developed by the concerned Ministry depending on the type of information and related preservation system (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Telecommunications, Ministry of Justice, CAS).</p>								
<p>Existence of guidelines for receiving requests, elaborating and providing responses, with clear timeline</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="804 695 1165 732">Fully met</td> <td data-bbox="1165 695 1354 732">Partially met</td> <td data-bbox="1354 695 1932 732">Not met</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="804 732 1932 873"> <p>Comments: Not met. In process as part of the Government E-Strategy</p> </td> </tr> </table>			Fully met	Partially met	Not met	<p>Comments: Not met. In process as part of the Government E-Strategy</p>		
Fully met	Partially met	Not met							
<p>Comments: Not met. In process as part of the Government E-Strategy</p>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there specific guidelines forbidding discrimination in access to information on any grounds? • Are such guidelines available in languages other than the official language of the country? • Are interpreters available for persons who do not or who are unable to speak the official language of the country? 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>Although specific guidelines forbidding discrimination in access to information are not available, the Constitution clearly indicates the rights and freedom of expression among all citizens, and the fact that Lebanon is a liberal country, discrimination is not encountered.</p> <p>Any information related to access to information is mainly found in Arabic; English and/or French versions may be found if the information is of relevance of an internationally funded project.</p> <p>Interpretation is a non-free service that is widely available in Lebanon, except in particular cases. For instance, nongovernmental organizations working on the rights of domestic workers in Lebanon prepared guidelines and useful information on services available to domestic workers in their native languages</p>								

<p>Existence of guidelines for front-desk staff: special attention to persons with disabilities and disadvantaged groups</p>	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there any specific training and/or guidelines in dealing with requests from disadvantaged/minority groups? • Do civil societies help communities' access information and get their voices heard? 	<p>Comments/Responses: The civil society is quite active in Lebanon in almost all sectors. National and local NGOs do support local communities at large and marginalized groups in particular, to voice their needs and concerns.</p>		
<p>Existence of policies promoting access to information sources (libraries, information kiosks, etc.)</p>	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	<p>Comments: Partially met. OMSAR Launched on 21 January 2002 the Central Office for Administrative Information (COFAI), a one-stop information shop consisting of 2 parts: a phone help line (1700) and an internet website www.informs.gov.lb. Informs' first version encompassed information on 1700 government transactions. the site's second release in 2003 provided a total of 4500 government transactions and an information directory of different public and some private agencies. The COFAI team is currently working on upgrading the site to turn it into a comprehensive user-friendly information portal, and is continuously improving, adding and developing the content information in order to meet the needs of web-users. On the other hand, Government agencies and ministries' websites as well the Central Bank website all provide free access to newsletters, reports and publications. Political parties, most of media (televisions, newspapers and radio stations) and nongovernmental organizations provide free access to news (political, sport, cultural, etc.), publications and other information through their websites and social media tools (facebook, twitter, etc.). Access to non-digital information on policies is made partially available through some libraries set at Ministries' premises (national level), library initiatives at municipalities' level, NGOs centers and universities.</p>		

<p>Are there policies making information sources available to all without discrimination? If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there funds allocated? (yes/no) • Do they require information resources created with public funds to be made available in open and accessible formats in national languages and at low or no cost? (yes/no) • Do they require that information for development (e.g. health, citizens' rights, etc.) is made available in multiple formats to accommodate the needs of disadvantaged groups, especially persons with disabilities? (yes/no) 	<p>Comments/Responses: The Lebanese Government has already developed an E-Strategy as well as the Citizen Chart. There has been an improvement in the government actions towards enabling information sources available to all without any obstacles or discrimination; one of these initiatives is the Central Office for Administrative Information (COFAI). However, more awareness raising steps need to be made to make citizens aware of the presence of this one stop information shop. Funds are available through public funds and international agencies (UN, EU, private sector).</p>		
<p>Existence of policies promoting inter-generational exchange and preservation of indigenous peoples traditions</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>Existence of policies that foresee the development of tools and resources to enhance the presence of national languages in cyberspace</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>Existence of policies that enhance awareness of information ethics challenges among all stakeholders</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>Comments: Not met</p>	<p>Comments: Fully met. Lebanon was one of the first countries in the Arabic-speaking world to introduce internet and Beirut's newspapers were the first in the region to provide readers with web versions of their newspapers. By 1996, three newspapers from Lebanon were online, Al Anwar, Annahar, and Assafir, and by 2000, more than 200 websites provided news out of Lebanon</p>		

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK			
Existence of a unit or equivalent structure (an independent/autonomous media/information/press commission) established to monitor and coordinate the implementation of the legislation on freedom of information	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Partially met. In the absence of a common legislative framework on freedom of information, a number of independent structures do monitor access and freedom of information including the Syndicates established for the Audiovisual and Press media, and national nongovernmental organizations.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does this institution include among its members/officials any representatives of minority/disadvantaged groups of the population? Is the process for selecting members fair and transparent? Are there measures to prevent participation on such as structure from becoming economically prohibitive for certain individuals? 	Comments/Responses: NA		
Existence of mechanisms of consultation involving different stakeholders groups, including persons with disabilities, in the development, implementation and evaluation of national information policies	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Not met.		

(6) Civic and Political participation

Lasting social change depends upon the ability of people to help shape the policies that affect their lives. Yet for some, such as racial minorities, immigrants, people living with disability and the working poor among others, barriers to meaningful participation in civic and political life persist. Public policies are key in determining the relationship between citizens and the State and in creating a people's contract rooted in a vision of a society that upholds the wellbeing of all its citizens.

Civic and political participation is a key process through which people are actively engaged in improving their lives and their communities and can provide innovative solutions to social challenges. It ensures that all actors and stakeholders have a clear and precise understanding of the principles, objectives and implementation of public policies. It contributes to strengthening the impact of public policies, balancing the inequitable distribution of power, advancing social cohesion and promoting the social sustainability necessary for economic growth and environmental protection.

RATIFICATION OF SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS			
	YES	NO	Comments
Has the State ratified the following international treaties: - ILO's Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169? (yes/no)		No	
If yes: - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order - Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments?	Comments/Responses:		
If not, please explain the reasons why specific instruments were not ratified?	Comments/Responses:		
Has the State ratified any regional instruments relating to civic and political participation? (yes/no)		No	
If yes, - Please mention the laws whereby the above instruments were transposed into the national legal order. - Are there any reservations deposited with respect to the provision(s) of any of the ratified instruments?	Comments/Responses: Lebanon is not a signatory to the Arab Charter on Human Rights which was adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States on 22 May 2004 and affirms the principles contained in the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam. It has been in force since 15 March 2008. Among the human rights provided for in the Charter are the right to liberty and security of persons, equality of persons before the law, freedom to practice religious observance and freedom of peaceful assembly and association. As of April 2012, the Charter had been ratified only by Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.		

UNIVERSAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECLARATIONS (SOFT LAW)			
Have the content and principles contained in the instruments listed below been explicitly incorporated/integrated into national laws and / or regulations?	YES	NO	Comments
Universal Declaration of Human Rights	Yes		Lebanon is committed to international conventions and treaties, as per the Preamble of the Lebanese constitution which was added in 1990 - following the Taif Agreement. Paragraph "b" of the Constitution provides that "Lebanon has an Arabic identity and belonging, a founding and active member of the Arab League and is committed to their charters, as Lebanon is also a founding and active member of the United Nations Organization and committed to their charters and the Universal Declaration of human Rights, and the State embodies these principles in all rights and areas without exception". The Lebanese Constitutional Council considers that the preamble to the Constitution is an integral part of it, and that the principles contained therein has a value of constitutional like the provisions of the Constitution itself. The jurisprudence of the Constitutional Council bases its decisions on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, considering they are along with other international agreements, such as those related to women's rights, complementary to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
Declaration on the Right to Development			
Beijing Declaration of the E-9 countries		No	Lebanon is not part of the 9 highest populated countries in the world.
CONSTITUTION			
Explicit inclusion of the right to self-determination, particularly the right for any person to freely determine their political status	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Fully met. Since its inception, Lebanon has been characterized by its confessional fabric, a mosaic of Christian-Muslim minorities, officially acknowledged 18 different denominations. Such particularity is reflected in the Lebanese Constitution, which embraces on that basis the freedom		

	<p>of opinion, belief, and equality of rights and duties among all citizens. The Preamble of the Constitution (c) stipulates that "Lebanon is a democratic parliamentary republic, founded on respect for public liberties, especially the freedom of opinion and belief, as well as on social justice and equal rights and duties among all citizens, without discrimination or preference". Article 7 of the Constitution states that "all Lebanese are equal before the law, do equally enjoy civil and political rights and assume their public obligations and duties without any distinction or preference". Finally, Article 9 of the Constitution guarantees an "absolute" freedom of belief and respect of Personal Status Codes for all citizens "regardless of their confessions". This constitutional article constitutes, to a large extent, an inclusive denominator inclusive among different Lebanese religions and groups.</p>
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there specific provisions for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, children and young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are there any restrictions to this right? If so, please provide them. • Are there specific provisions preventing violations of this right? If so do they make specific reference to violations affecting the realization of this right by migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, children and young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>The Constitution and Laws do not specifically refer to certain groups in the society. The same rights and obligations are applicable to Lebanese citizens and non-Lebanese residents.</p> <p>Violations of any right or obligation specified in the Constitution or in the prevailing laws, whether affecting a Lebanese citizen or a non-Lebanese resident, are subject to the provisions of the Penal Code no.340 dated 1943</p>

<p>Explicit inclusion of the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of civil and political rights</p>	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there specific provisions for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, children and young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are there any restrictions to this right? If so, please provide them. • Are there specific provisions preventing violations of this right? If so do they make specific reference to violations affecting the realization of this right by migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, children and young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>Partially met. The Lebanese Constitution confirms expressly in its Article 7 that all Lebanese are equal before the law, do equally enjoy their civil and political rights, and assume the obligations and duties without any distinction.</p> <p>There are no provisions that address specific groups of the society. Violations referred to as crimes against political and civil rights are addressed in the Penal Code no.340, dated 1943 and its amendments. However no provisions do specifically address particular groups of the society.</p>		
<p>Explicit inclusion of the right to hold opinions without interference and the right to freedom of expression (as described in art.19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights)</p>	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	<p>Comments:</p> <p>Fully met. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stress on the "arbitrary" and "illegal" non-interference in the individual's private and family life, home or correspondence, and the legal protection of such an intervention. Accordingly, the preamble of the Lebanese Constitution is committed to the provisions of these conventions,</p>		

	<p>which was added in 1990. Article 8 states that "personal freedom is guaranteed in accordance with the law and no one can be arrested or imprisoned, neither can be determined guilty or punished except as set by law"; while article 13 guarantees, within the law, the freedom to express an opinion, in words and in writing, the freedom to printing (press), freedom of assembly and freedom of association.</p>		
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there specific provisions for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, children and young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are there any restrictions to this right? If so, please provide them. • Are there specific provisions preventing violations of this right? If so do they make specific reference to violations affecting the realization of this right by migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, children and young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>The right to hold opinions without interference and right to freedom of expression are both rights that address all Lebanese citizens without specifications made to a particular group of the society.</p> <p>Violations referred to as crimes against political and civil rights are addressed in the Penal Code Legislative Decree no.340, dated 1943 and its amendments. However no provisions do specifically address restriction from realizing this right.</p>		
<p>Explicit inclusion of the right of peaceful assembly and association</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
	<p>Comments: Partially met. The Lebanese Constitution confirms expressly in its Article 13 the freedom to express an opinion in words and in writing, the freedom of assembly and the freedom of association which are all guaranteed within the domain of the law. Yet, the text of the 1909 Law remains the common legal framework for the establishment of all associations.</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there specific provisions preventing violations of this right? If so do they make specific reference to violations affecting the realization of this right by migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, children and young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? 	<p>95 items and distributed to the 5 sections: general provisions, sports associations and federations, scout associations and federations, youth associations and federations, transitional provisions and concluding remarks.</p> <p>Majal (the online observatory of nongovernmental organizations) criticized the new form of the decree Law as per the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Decree gives the impression of being restrictive; - The decree is based on the principle of granting a permission to create an NGO rather than an informative step, which contrasts with the citizen's freedom of association enshrined in the Lebanese Constitution; - The Decree defines exclusively the activities that can be exercised by the youth associations, which is inconsistent with the right of young people and their organizations to freely choose their own activities; - The Decree restricts the concept of volunteer work in associations' voluntary camps (Article 75), which contrasts with the fact that youth activities and the overall associative work is on voluntary basis; - The youth, sports and scouts organizations are subject to double license from the MOYS and the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MOIM); - The decree does not show the process and mechanisms to object to the decisions aiming to cancelling the license, which is inconsistent with the most basic rights of persons and bodies to defend their rights and the resumption of official decisions. <p>Considering that freedom of association is among the fundamental freedoms of the Constitution, only the legislative authority is entitled to put restrictions to such freedom however within the limitations of the law. By virtue of Articles 3 and 14 of the Law of Associations 1909, the first Article of Decree No. 10830, or Article 38 of the Penal Code, the Council of Ministers may issue a decree to dissolve an association in the following cases: if it violates the general laws and code of ethics; if it aims at disturbing peace and stability of the empire (the state); if it attempts to change the current government. Also, the Council of Ministers may issue a decree to dissolve political associations if their members "commit a crime against state security, in their capacity as a party member, and are conclusively convicted thereof". The criminal court may also issue an order to dissolve an association if it is charged with Articles 336, 337, and 338 of the Penal Code (penalizing the establishment of clandestine and illegal associations).</p>
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	<p>Circular No. 10/AM/2006 of the MOIM provides further interpretation of the Law 1909. It stipulates that "the MOIM has the right to refuse the delivery of a statement for the establishment of an association, if the statement does not include the legally required information, or if the goals of association are illegal or contrary to the provisions of the law or public order or morals. In case of rejection of notice for any of the above stated reasons, the association will be dissolved by a decree issued by the Council of Ministers".</p> <p>The right of association is prohibited on the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon; this right can be partially achieved if 60% of the members of the constituent body have a Lebanese nationality. There is no legal text that speaks frankly about this ratio, but it is a practice that became as a dedicated resolution. The Palestinians are also prohibited from forming unions or joining Lebanese unions.</p> <p>There are no specific provisions that may prevent any violations of this right.</p>					
<p>Explicit inclusion of the right for every woman and man to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="749 690 1944 763"> <tr> <td data-bbox="749 690 907 763">Fully met</td> <td data-bbox="907 690 1085 763">Partially met</td> <td data-bbox="1085 690 1944 763">Not met</td> </tr> </table> <p>Comments: Partially met. Article 12 of the Lebanese Constitution states that every Lebanese national has the right to hold public office, no preference being made except on the basis of merit and competence according to the conditions established by the law.</p>			Fully met	Partially met	Not met
Fully met	Partially met	Not met				
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there specific provisions for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, children and young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? No • Are there any restrictions to this right? If so, please provide them. • Are there specific provisions preventing violations of this right? If 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>This right is not applicable to migrant workers and members of their families if they are not Lebanese nationality holders.</p> <p>Restrictions are applicable to migrant workers and members of their families if they are not of the Lebanese nationality holders.</p>					

<p>so do they make specific reference to violations affecting the realization of this right by migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, children and young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? No</p>			
<p>Explicit inclusion of the right for every woman and man to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there specific provisions for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, children and young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are there any restrictions to this right? If so, please provide them. 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>Partially met. The Election Law no.25 dated 8/10/2008 and amended as per Law 59 dated 27/10/2008 states that every Lebanese man and woman who has reached the appropriate age defined by the Constitution, living in Lebanon or abroad, has the right to vote. Also every Lebanese man or woman who has completed the twenty five years of age has the right to run for parliamentary elections. The ballot is conducted using a standard sealed non-transparent envelope for all voters provided by the MOIM and placed at the disposal of the voters.</p> <p>Only holder of the Lebanese citizenship can have the right to vote and to be elected. As for migrant workers and members of their families, the Parliamentary Elections Law no. 25 dated 8/10/2008 (amended by virtue of law 59 dated 27/12/08 amending some articles of law) states naturalized Lebanese individuals may not vote before ten years after the naturalization decree is issued.</p> <p>The restrictions are equally applicable to all Lebanese citizens. A Lebanese citizen shall not be a candidate for the House of Parliament unless s/he is registered in Lebanese voters list, enjoy his/her civil and political rights, and is an educated person. A naturalized person can be considered as a candidate only after the expiration of ten years from the issuance of the naturalization decree (Article 8, Act No. 59 dated 27/12/2008). However, this provision does not involve the foreign woman who becomes Lebanese by marrying a Lebanese citizen (article 5).</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there specific provisions preventing violations of this right? If so do they make specific reference to violations affecting the realization of this right by migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, children and young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? 	<p>According to Article 4, the following persons are prevented from voting (this right is restored after rehabilitation): (1) persons deprived by legal sentence of their civil rights; (2) persons convicted to be permanently disqualified from public service at any grades or positions; (3) persons disqualified from their grades or public service temporarily, until the end of the disqualification period; (4) persons convicted of a felony; (5) persons convicted of one of the following major offences: burglary, fraud, issuing of uncovered checks, breach of trust, misappropriation of funds, bribery, perjury, rape, intimidation, falsification, forgery, false testimony, immoral crimes as stated in the seventh chapter of the penal code, and crimes related to the planting, production and/or trade in illicit drugs; (6) persons interdicted by court order until the end of the interdiction period; (7) persons declared fraudulently bankrupt or those sentenced to sanctions stated in Articles 689 to 698 of the Penal Code; (8) persons convicted and sentenced to sanctions stated in Articles 329 to 334 of the penal code.</p> <p>Article 91 of the Parliamentary Elections Law no. 25 dated 8/10/2008 (amended by virtue of law 59 dated 27/12/08 amending some articles of law) states that "no voter may delegate his/her right to vote to another party. However, a voter with disabilities shall be allowed, under the supervision of the polling station panel, to have the assistance of another voter of his/her choice. Such an event shall be mentioned in the box reserved for comments on the election check list". Article 83 says that "accredited observers authorized by the Ministry according to the present law, may enter the polling stations at any moment to observe the developments of the electoral process".</p>		
<p>Explicit inclusion of the right for every woman and man to have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his/her country</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there specific provisions for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, 	<p>Comments/Responses: Access to public services is available to all Lebanese citizens and to non-Lebanese residents, including migrant workers and their families (as per Labour Law dated 1946). Bilateral agreements do include provisions that ensure rights for migrant workers and the members of their families, such as the 1994 Labour Agreement with Syria and the 2009 agreement with Egypt granting equal treatment of workers. Besides, there is the EU-Lebanon Association Agreement (2006) whereby</p>		

<p>children and young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any restrictions to this right? If so, please provide them. • Are there specific provisions preventing violations of this right? If so do they make specific reference to violations affecting the realization of this right by migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, children and young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? 	<p>parties agree to a dialogue that shall be used to find ways to achieve progress in the field of movement of workers and equal treatment and social integration of Lebanese and EU nationals legally residing in the territories of their host countries. Excluded from this right are the domestic workers who are not explicitly included in the Labor Law as part of the migrant workers. As for persons with disabilities, services are ensured by law 220/2000. However the level and quality of services are not fully met due to weak legislative enforcement.</p> <p>Excluded from this right are the migrant domestic workers who are not explicitly included in the Labor Law as part of the migrant workers.</p> <p>Any violation to the rights of the migrant workers and their families is subject to the provisions of the Labor Law and the Penal Code. However, it is important to highlight that there are more than 200,000 migrant domestic workers in Lebanon. Many of these workers are at risk of exploitation since they are excluded from the Lebanese labor law and subject to immigration rules based on employer-specific sponsorship, known as the <i>kafala</i> system. For the moment, due to lack of legal protection, NGOs are often the only resort to workers in need of medical care, psycho-social counseling, legal assistance and educational services. Recently, the International Labor Organization mapped out services available at NGOs for the benefit of migrant domestic workers with the aim of improving the accessibility and effectiveness of these services. According to the ILO report, there are currently 18 NGOs operating in Lebanon that focus on issues facing migrant domestic workers. The ILO directory, available in Arabic and English, lists these NGOs and the services they offer by geographical region. The ILO has developed an interactive, online map that shows services and also allows NGOs to see the activities of other organizations and update the map as their service offerings fluctuate or new initiatives begin. The ILO will also begin to work with its regional offices located in the countries of origin for workers coming to Lebanon, to distribute pre-departure materials regarding their rights and what to expect upon their arrival. As Domestic workers are not voters, this makes it harder for decision makers to make change. Palestinian refugees: services (education, health, other) are provided by UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to Palestinian refugees and their families who live in Palestinian camps. Other Palestinian refugees who live in informal gatherings do not enjoy the same quality of services.</p> <p>Accessibility of services to people with disability: Services are ensured by law 220/2000. However the level and quality of services are not fully met due to weak legislative enforcement.</p>
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Explicit recognition of the status of citizen	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	<p>Comments: Fully met On January 19th, 1925, the French High Commissioner issued arrêté n° 15/S, which until today represented the main legal text regulating transmission of citizenship, naturalization and denaturalization. Arrêté 15/S was based on the Ottoman nationality law of January 19th 1869, which created the Ottoman citizenship and was based on the French civil code of 1803. The main provisions of arrêté 15/S have not changed since 1925. Jus sanguinis through patrilineal affiliation remains the sole principle for the attribution of citizenship: in other words, only men can transmit citizenship to their children, or to their foreign spouse. Jus solis only applies to exceptional cases, such as an individual born in Lebanon from unknown parents. The naturalization of foreigners residing in Lebanon, or married to Lebanese women, depends on a discretionary decision of the executive. In addition, there is no co-ethnic preference to ease the naturalization of Arab citizens, as is the case in many other Arab countries.</p>		
If so, please provide the specific constitutional text	<p>Comments/Responses: Decree No15/1925 (Lebanese Nationality), Article 1: Is considered Lebanese : - Every person born of a Lebanese father; - Every person born in the Greater Lebanon territory and did not acquire a foreign nationality, upon birth, by affiliation; - Every person born in the Greater Lebanon territory of unknown parents or parents of unknown nationality.</p>		
LEGISLATION			
Existence of a "framework law" for equal and non-discriminatory civic and political participation guiding sectoral policies	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	<p>Comments: Not met. There is not a single framework law exists until today. Civic and political participation guiding sectoral policies is found in a number of framework laws.</p>		
If so, are there specific provisions for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, children and	<p>Comments/Responses: No specific provisions are foreseen except for the persons with disabilities, particularly regarding the election process. Article 92 of the Election Law states that the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities takes into account the needs of persons with disabilities in the organization of</p>		

<p>young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities?</p>	<p>electoral processes, and facilitates their procedures that allow them to exercise their right to vote without obstacles. The application of this article takes into account the opinion of associations working with persons with disabilities, stipulated in the Disability Rights Act No. 220 dated 05/29/2000.</p>		
<p>Existence of legislation regulating the attribution of the status of "citizen"</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, which are the conditions and criteria? • Are there specific provisions relating to migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, children and young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>Lebanese Nationality Decree, No15 dated 19 January 1925. Article 1 considers a person as Lebanese:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Every person born of a Lebanese father. - Every person born in the Greater Lebanon territory and did not acquire a foreign nationality, upon birth, by affiliation. - Every person born in the Greater Lebanon territory of unknown parents or parents of unknown nationality. <p>Article 7 of the Constitution Text states that all Lebanese citizens are equal before the law and do equally enjoy civil and political rights and bear their obligations and duties without any distinction. The Lebanese Nationality Law defines the conditions for granting the Lebanese nationality and for the naturalization of a non-Lebanese (who lives in Lebanon for more than 10 years), therefore applicable to all marginalized groups mentioned herewith, except for migrant domestic workers.</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there a specific process foreseen? If so, please provide the legislative references 	<p>The citizenship requirements are the following: (1) Children born to Lebanese fathers are entitled to Lebanese citizenship. (2) Lebanon accepts the principle of dual citizenship. Acquiring another nationality does not result in losing the original Lebanese citizenship. (3) Foreign wives of Lebanese husbands may apply and obtain Lebanese citizenship. They will become entitled to it one year after the marriage has been entered in the Civil Acts Register in Lebanon, provided they apply for it with their husband's approval. On the other hand, there are increasing efforts calling for giving the opportunity for Lebanese women (married to non Lebanese) to transmit their Lebanese nationality to their children and also to their husbands (Decree no.15 on Lebanese Nationality, dated 1925)</p>		
<p>Existence of legislation regulating electoral and voting processes that ensures, for all citizens, without discrimination, the right to vote in elections and public referenda -on the basis of universal and equal suffrage</p>	<p>Fully met Partially met Not met</p>		
	<p>Comments: Partially met. In August 2005, the Council of Ministers decreed the formation of a 12-member commission to work on and propose a draft of a new electoral system in Lebanon. The National Commission on Electoral Law (with a ratio of 11 men to one woman) was led by former Minister Fouad Boutros and included members from the various religious denominations as well as individuals from judicial, legal, and academic circles. On May 31, 2006, the commission submitted a draft of the new proposed law— which was slated to be studied by the Cabinet and then sent to Parliament within a month. To date, the draft has not been ratified. From its initial meeting, the commission drafted its own internal bylaws, including an understanding that any new electoral law had to conform to the Taif Agreement (as its mandate stipulated), provide accurate representation of the Lebanese demographic situation, and also provide a fair political representation of all groups and generations. In addition, the commission had to safeguard Lebanon's multicultural plurality of coexistence; respect and preserve the unity of Lebanon's land, people, and institutions; and endeavor not to alienate any large portion of any denomination. Furthermore, the proposed law had to be in harmony with international standards of free and fair elections and modern, civilized electoral systems. Among the most prominent changes proposed by the commission are: (1) Reduce the voting age from 21 to 18; (2) Create an independent electoral commission to monitor campaign and media financing; (3) Grant women a 30 percent quota on electoral lists; (4) Grant expatriates the right to vote; (5) Disallow ministers currently in office to run for Parliament; (6) Implement a mixed electoral system. Accordingly, the Election Law 1960 is still in force. As for holding public referendum in Lebanon, it is thought to be impossible due to the prevailing sectarian system in the country.</p>		

<p>and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there specific provisions to enable, facilitate and ensure that both the voting process and information on how and where to vote is accessible and made available to people with disabilities • Are there specific provisions for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? 	<p>disqualification period;</p> <p>4- Persons convicted of a felony;</p> <p>5- Persons convicted of one of the following major offences: burglary, fraud, issuing of uncovered checks, breach of trust, misappropriation of funds, bribery, perjury, rape, intimidation, falsification, forgery, false testimony, immoral crimes as stated in the seventh chapter of the penal code, and crimes related to the planting, production and/or trade in illicit drugs;</p> <p>6- Persons interdicted by court order until the end of the interdiction period;</p> <p>7- Persons declared fraudulently bankrupt or those sentenced to sanctions stated in Articles 689 to 698 of the Penal Code;</p> <p>8- Persons convicted and sentenced to sanctions stated in Articles 329 to 334 of the penal code</p> <p>The aforementioned persons may not vote until after rehabilitation.</p> <p>Article 5 of the same law states that naturalized Lebanese individuals may not vote before ten years after the naturalization decree is issued. However this provision does not involve the foreign woman who becomes Lebanese by marrying a Lebanese citizen (clause added by virtue of law /59/ dated 27/12/08 amending some articles of law no. 25).</p> <p>Article 6 prohibits from voting non retired military personnel of various ranks or those considered as such, whether in the army, Internal Security Forces, Public Security, State Security, or Customs Police.</p> <p>As per the electoral Law, the MOIM shall announce in the media (printed and audio-visual), within the deadline specified in the previous article, that the voters' rolls are ready, and shall call voters to check them and take copies thereof. For the same purpose, the Ministry shall, within the same deadline, publish the primary voters' rolls on its Website and release CDs thereof. On the other hand, Article 92 of the Election Law states that the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities takes into account the needs of persons with disabilities in the organization of electoral processes, and facilitates their procedures that allow them to exercise their right to vote without obstacles. The application of this article follows the opinion of associations working with persons with disabilities are stipulated in the Disability Rights Act No. 220 dated 05/29/2000.</p> <p>No provisions foreseen. The Boutros Commission worked in 2006 on drafting a new electoral law which included a 30% women quota. This draft law has not been endorsed until today.</p>
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Existence of legislation regulating electoral and voting processes that ensures, for all citizens, without discrimination, the right to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there specific quotas for population or other types of groups foreseen? If so, are there specific quotas for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, children and young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are there specific restrictions or other provisions that would restrict, deter or render impossible the participation of migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are there specific provisions to enable, facilitate and ensure that both the voting process and information on how and where to vote is accessible and made available to people with disabilities 	<p>Comments: Not met. The Lebanese Constitution ensures the right for all to be elected in all publicly elected bodies. However in practice, and due to the confessional and political structure of the Country, adherence to political parties remains the fundamental way to be elected due to the prevailing system of the sectarian quotas.</p> <p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>The Constitution specifies that parliamentary seats are equally divided between Christians and Muslims (64 seats each). Although there is no quota specified within this internal division for women and persons with disabilities in specific, Lebanon is still far behind from fully achieving the right for marginalized groups to be elected.</p> <p>The only restriction is applicable to migrant workers and their families, whereby only a Lebanese citizen can run for election to a Lebanese elected body.</p> <p>As per the electoral Law, the MOIM shall announce in the media (printed and audio-visual) the readiness of the voters' rolls within the specified deadline, and accordingly, shall call voters to verify these rolls and take copies thereof. For the same purpose, the Ministry shall, within the same deadline, publish the primary voters' rolls on its website and release CDs thereof. On the other hand, Article 92 of the Election Law states that the MOIM takes into account the needs of persons with disabilities in the organization of electoral processes, and facilitates the procedures that allow them to exercise their right to vote without obstacles. The application of this article follows the opinion of associations working for persons with disabilities as stipulated in the Disability Rights Act No. 220 dated 05/29/2000.</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there specific provisions for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Is the legislation in adequate format to be made available for, and accessible to, people with disabilities? 	<p>The legislation is available online, and therefore, accessible to persons with physical and visual disabilities, in Arabic and English languages.</p>		
<p>Existence of laws/regulations/decrees that 1) recognize as illegal and prohibit organizations and all other propaganda activities that promote and incite racial discrimination, and 2) recognize participation in such organizations or activities as an offence punishable by law</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At which level (national, provincial, municipal, local)? • Are there exceptions? If so, please state them. • What level of punishment by law is foreseen? 	<p>Comments/Responses: The provisions of these laws are applicable at national, municipal and local level. Punishment can go from association dissolution to imprisonment with hard labor applied to members, up to 7 years.</p>		
<p>Existence of laws/regulations/decrees that allow and enable all citizens, without discrimination, to take part in the Government as well as in the conduct of public affairs at any level and to have equal access to public service</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
	<p>Comments: Fully met. In the Constitution</p>		

<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which levels of governance do they cover (national, provincial, municipal, local)? • Are there specific quotas for population or other types of groups foreseen? If so, are there specific quotas for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, children and young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are there specific criteria to take part in Government as well as in the conduct of public affairs at any level and to have equal access to public service? If so, please state them, specifying the level of governance. • Are there specific restrictions or other provisions that would restrict, deter or render impossible the participation of migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are there specific provisions for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Is the legislation in adequate format 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>The Constitution covers the country nationwide.</p> <p>Article 73 of the Law 220/2000 (Law for the rights of the persons with disabilities) related to the allocation of jobs in the public sector states that 3% at least of the total number of job categories is allocated to persons with disabilities in public sector.</p> <p>Article 74 (allocation of jobs in the private sector) impose to private companies which have not less than 30 but no more than 60 employees to employ one person with disability that meets the required qualifications. If the number of employees exceeds 60 persons, then the private firm shall apply the 3% quota.</p> <p>However the provisions of the Law are not fully applied. Quotas to other groups of the society are not available.</p> <p>Restrictions are applicable to migrant workers and members of their families if they are not among the Lebanese nationality holders.</p>
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to be made available for, and accessible to, people with disabilities?	Internet is increasingly becoming the way to inform concerned groups including persons with disabilities (who have access to internet).					
Existence of laws/regulations/decrees enabling all citizens, without discrimination, to represent their Governments or countries at the international and regional level and to participate in the work of international and regional organizations	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Fully met</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Partially met</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Not met</td> </tr> </table>			Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Fully met	Partially met	Not met			
Comments: Partially met. Depending on the type of the event and the level of representation needed, citizens who represent their governments are usually nominated through specific decision(s) issued from the concerned sectoral (thematic) ministry or through council of ministers' decision(s). Citizens who are members of national organizations can participate without discrimination in civil society forum at national, regional and international levels.						
If so, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there specific quotas for population or other types of groups foreseen? If so, are there specific quotas for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, children and young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are there specific criteria that enable a citizen to represent their Governments or countries at the international and regional level and to participate in the work of international and regional organizations? If so, please state them. • Are there specific provisions that regulate the nomination process or the process to participate in such organizations? If so, please state them 	Comments/Responses: Criteria are mainly based on the relevance of the theme of the regional and international event, as well as on the qualifications of the citizen representing the Government. Migrant workers can participate in the work of regional and international organizations in Lebanon. However they cannot participate or represent the Lebanese Government as this requires a Lebanese citizenship to be available. No restrictions are available regarding women, people with disabilities or religious minorities if they are Lebanese citizens.					

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there specific restrictions or other provisions that would restrict, deter or render impossible the participation of migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are there specific provisions for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Is the legislation in adequate format to be made available for, and accessible to, people with disabilities? 			
<p>Existence of laws/regulations/decrees that enable all citizens, without discrimination, to form and participate in the activities and administration of, political parties</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any restrictions? If so, please state them. 	<p>Comments/Responses: Fully met. The associations in Lebanon are subject to the law issued on 03.08.1909, and its amendments (the NGO Law), which, like other laws was enacted before the Lebanese independence but still fully in force. This law applies to all associations which are not subject to a law of its own, including political parties.</p> <p>Comments/Responses: Every citizen has the right to belong or not to an association. But the Law 1909 puts limits to this principle related to age and eligibility: (1) Persons under twenty years of age are prohibited from enrollment; (2) Persons convicted of a felony or deprived from his civil rights are prohibited from enrollment. The by-laws of the association (applicable to a political party) may include provisions such as, restricting membership to its assembly or determining the qualifications of the applicant, or the affiliation can be granted if accepted by the membership committee. Parallel to the right to adherence to the association, the law stresses on the right to withdraw from the assembly, as</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are political parties authorized to have local branches? • Is the process for the creation of a political party foreseen by law? If so, please describe it. • Are there specific criteria for the creation of, or participation in, political parties? • Are there specific quotas for population groups or other groups in terms of forming or participating in a political party? If so, are there specific quotas for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, children and young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are there specific restrictions or other provisions that would restrict, deter or render impossible the participation of migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Is legislation governing the creation of, and participation in, political parties adequately published and made accessible to and for all citizens, without discrimination? • Is the legislation in adequate format 	<p>stated in Article 10 of the law: "A member of the assembly may withdraw at any time s/he wanted, even if stipulated in the association's statute otherwise, but following payment of his/her contribution to the current year".</p> <p>The Law 1909 does not explicitly authorize or restrict associations, including political parties, to have local branches. Therefore, political parties do have local branches</p> <p>The creation of a political party is subject to the provisions of the Law 1909, as part of regulating the creation of associations which do not have law(s) of their own.</p> <p>Article 2 of the Association Law 1909 states that the formation of an association does not require a license at the beginning but it is necessary to inform the government after its founding as per article 4. Accordingly, when establishing an association (whether social, cultural, political, other) the founders should submit to the MOIM the following documents: (1) name and address of the Association, (2) three copies of the association's by-laws signed by the founders; (3) copies of the identity cards of the founders (required to be above 20 years old as per the provisions of the Act); (4) judicial records of the founders.</p> <p>The MOIM scrutinizes these documents, and accordingly, the founders are given a statement indicating that the MOIM took note of the establishment of the association. A copy of the statement is shared with concerned stakeholders (ministries, administrations, syndicates, etc.).</p> <p>The MOIM keeps the right to refuse delivery of the statement referred to above in the following cases: (1) if the statement does not include information referred to by law; (2) if the subject is on a basis contrary to the provisions of laws, regulations and public morals.</p> <p>In case of refusal of statement delivery for the reasons set forth above, the association is dissolved by a decree issued by the Council of Ministers. Otherwise, the statement is published in the Official Gazette and in accordance with the prevailing regulations.</p>
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to be made available for, and accessible to, people with disabilities?	Legislation can be found online or through private electronic services (sale of compendium of legal texts).		
Existence of laws/regulations/decrees that regulate public assistance and subsidies for political parties and associations	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Partially met. Laws regulating sectoral ministries (MOSA, MOPH, MOYS, Ministry of Environment, other) foresee a number of legal provisions for public assistance and subsidies targeting associations. Political parties are excluded.		
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At which level can such public assistance be provided (national, provincial, municipal/local)? • Are there specific criteria for the allocation of such assistance? If so, please state them. • Are there specific quotas for the allocation of such assistance? If so, please state them. • Is the process for approval and allocation of funds foreseen? If so, please state it. • Is legislation governing the allocation of such assistance adequately published and made accessible to and for all political parties and associations? 	Comments/Responses: Public assistance can be awarded to associations operating at national and local levels. Allocation of assistance is given to nongovernmental organizations capable of providing a service to a community or specific group of population that are in need. Accordingly, these organizations need to be duly acknowledged by the MOIM, and registered at the concerned Ministry (such as the MOSA). A number of internal and financial statements of relevance to the association are usually required by the concerned Ministry as a pre-requisite to assess the relevance of the association and its capacities to deliver. The approval is subject to the administration in charge of the specific sector at the Ministry's level.		
Existence of laws/regulations/decrees that allow and enable of all citizens, without discrimination, to form, represent or engage in non-governmental organizations, foundations and associations concerned with all public and political affairs	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: The Lebanese Constitution enshrines the principle of freedom of association. Article 13 reads as follows: "Freedom of opinion in speaking and writing, freedom of printing, freedom of assembly, and freedom of forming associations are all guaranteed in the framework of the law". However, it should be noted the difference between the French and Arab texts: while the Arabic text is		

	<p>dedicated to the freedom of creating an association, the French text speaks of the freedom of association. Accordingly, the French text is more comprehensive, while the Arabic translation narrows down the concept of freedom of the association to its establishment, despite the commitment and protection of such freedom and putting it on an equal footing with all other political freedoms.</p>
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At which level(s) (national, provincial, municipal/local)? • Are there any restrictions? If so, please state them. • Is the process for the creation of non-governmental organizations and associations foreseen by law? If so, please describe it. • Are there specific criteria for the creation of, or participation in, non-governmental organizations, foundations and associations? • Are there specific quotas for population groups or other groups in terms of forming or participating in non-governmental organizations, foundations and associations? If so, are there specific quotas for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, children and young people, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are there specific restrictions or other provisions that would restrict, deter or render impossible the participation of migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>All levels (national, municipal, local).</p> <p>The conditions and restrictions are set in the Law 1909 (Association Act) of the Ministry of Interior, or the Decree no.2437 dated 1944 of the Ministry of Youth and Sport regarding sport associations and clubs, or the Cooperatives Law 1909 (and its amendments) of the Ministry of Agriculture.</p> <p>The creation of a non-governmental organization is subject to the provisions of the Law 1909, as part of regulating the creation of associations which do not have law(s) of their own. Cooperatives Law reflects the same process for creation.</p> <p>The Cooperatives Law (1909) and the NGO Law (1909) bear the same purpose for creation "group composed of several individuals who unite their information and efforts in a permanent fashion and the goal of which is not to divide profit", and membership age "members must not be under 20 years of age, have been convicted of a crime, or have been deprived of civil rights". As for the Sport associations and clubs, the MOYS elaborated a wide number of decrees that define the modalities for creation of sport clubs and associations, scouts, sport unions/ syndicates, etc. These modalities include administrative and technical requirements.</p> <p>This is applicable in the case of sport associations and clubs, whereby the Decree-Law no.2437/1944 states in the- amended twice- article 2 that permission to form a sport association in Lebanese cities and villages is granted on the basis of: (1) a sport association per type of sport activity formed for every 10.000 persons, or part of, in cities and villages which population does not exceed 30.000 persons; (2) a sport association for every type of sport activity formed for the 10.000 persons in cities where population exceeds (the first) 30.000 persons, and another sport association for every 20.000 persons (following the first 30.000 persons).</p>

<p>and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is legislation governing the creation of, and participation in, non-governmental organizations and associations adequately published and made accessible to and for all citizens, without discrimination? • Is the legislation in adequate format to be made available for, and accessible to, people with disabilities? 	<p>Information that facilitates the creation and participation in non-governmental associations are found at the MOIM (offices and website); however, the legislation governing the creation of sport clubs and associations as well as scouts is not easily found.</p> <p>The legislation related to the creation of and participation in non-governmental organizations is found on the MOIM office and website. Therefore it is accessible to personal with physical and visual disabilities. This is not the case of the legislation governing the creation of sport clubs and associations as well as scouts.</p>		
<p>Existence of laws/regulations/decrees that enable of all citizens, without discrimination, to engage in and contribute to the life of their communities, through peaceful means such as community service, volunteering, social entrepreneurship, among others</p>	<p>Fully met Partially met Not met</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there specific restrictions or other provisions that would restrict, deter or render impossible the participation of migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are there specific provisions for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? 	<p>Comments/Responses: No</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the legislation in adequate format to be made available for, and accessible to, people with disabilities? 			
<p>Existence of laws/regulations/decrees that regulate public assistance and subsidies for non-governmental public action</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At which level can such public assistance be provided (national, provincial, municipal/local)? Are there specific criteria for the allocation of such assistance? If so, please state them. Are there specific quotas for the allocation of such assistance? If so, please state them. Is the process for approval and allocation of funds foreseen? If so, please state it. Is legislation governing the allocation 	<p>Comments: Partially met. Financial grants and subsidies provided to sport commissions and scouts (Decision no.461 dated 30/6/1964). These could be lump-sum annual support, urgent support to participate in sport conferences, support relative to the percentage of activities carried out, and urgent assistance to support costs of an international sport event. Article 12 of the same Decision grants financial support to sport associations to sustain some of their activities. Article 14 gives the Scouts associations a financial support to cover scout camps costs. Other decrees regulate the public assistance and subsidies to service-delivery oriented associations through the MOSA, MOPH, and Ministry of Environment. Another type of public assistance is made available through the OMSAR to non-governmental associations (funding made available through AFKAR Program of the EU). Finally, point 18 of Article 49 (Municipal Act no. 118 dated 30/6/1977 and its amendments) indicates that among the municipality competence is to "rescue the needy and disabled people and to assist clubs, associations and other health, social, sports and cultural activities".</p> <p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>National (MOYS, MOSA, MOPH, Ministry of Environment, etc.) and local (municipalities).</p> <p>No specific criteria are set per type of assistance, except for a proof that the association is recognized by the concerned ministry (e.g. social service oriented association for the MOSA).</p> <p>Allocation of funds (percentage, ceiling), criteria for approval and type of association are all found in the laws and decisions regulated per type of ministry.</p> <p>Allocation of funds is pending the approval of the concerned Ministry.</p> <p>Allocation of funds (percentage, ceiling), criteria for approval and type of association are all found in the laws and decisions regulated per type of ministry</p>		

<p>of such assistance adequately published and made accessible to and for all non-governmental public actors?</p>			
<p>Existence of laws/regulations/decrees that regulate access to public spaces</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do they regulate such access? • Are there specific restrictions or other provisions that would restrict, deter or render impossible the access to public spaces for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are there specific provisions referring to migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Is the legislation in adequate format to be made available for, and accessible to, people with disabilities? 	<p>Comments: Partially met. Laws regulated by the Directorate General of Urban Planning; Law of public maritime domains; laws regulating the protected areas; municipal decisions. However these laws are not sufficient as Lebanon witnesses increasingly a lack of public spaces due to fast reconstruction rates (public spaces inside cities) and privatization of the coastal area.</p> <p>Comments/Responses: Access to remaining urban public spaces is regulated through the concerned municipality. As for public maritime spaces, they are regulated through the Ministry of Transport and Public Works.</p> <p>There are no restrictions regarding the access to public spaces in urban areas. As for public maritime domains, and since private beaches are consuming most of the coastal area, access to the public spaces is not free and therefore access is limited to the rules set by the beach "owners".</p>		

Existence of laws/regulations/decrees promoting equal and non-discriminatory access to, and dissemination of, information by political or civil actors	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
		<p>Comments: Partially met.</p> <p>At governmental level, there are some sporadic legal texts perceived as insufficient. For instance, Article 86 of the law establishing the "Land Registry" No. 188 dated 15.03.1926, stipulates that "everyone has the right to receive information listed in the Land Registry". The legal texts related to the organization of the telecommunications and electricity sectors in Lebanon (No. 431 and 462/2002) refer to the following: "the Commission makes available to the public all data, documents, records and data, except those that are related to the commercial confidentiality and the principle of competition. Also, it is entitled to all those who wish to read or copy them, to make a written request".</p> <p>On the other hand, the Council of Ministers approved on November 5th 2001 the "citizen's charter" which aims to improve the relationship and interaction between the citizen and public administrations. Among the issues promoted by the Chart are (1) the right to access to information, whereby the Chart stresses upon the need to publish and disseminate information about laws through publications and information networks, inform on public expenditures, have access to national and local budgets, advertising on the projects and their costs in prominent places and dissemination of statistics, and (2) Accountability and participation, through promoting the right of review, the need for conducting a referendum among citizens to perceive their satisfaction, the need for public servants to communicate with the society and the involvement of bodies of civil society bodies in the processes of discussing the policies of public administration. However, this Chart was not accompanied by a reinforcing mechanism, and accordingly, its application is still pending. As for information produced and disseminated by political and civic actors, the currently prevailing laws do not specifically define who could produce this information. However civic and political actors have established their own means of disseminating information particularly through electronic means (websites, social media networks, etc.)</p>	
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At which level/s (national, provincial, municipal/local)? • Are there specific provisions referring to migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with 	<p>Comments/Responses: Access to and dissemination of information by political and civic actors is available on national and local levels.</p>		

<p>disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there specific restrictions or other provisions that would restrict, deter or render impossible the access to public spaces for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Is the legislation in adequate format to be made available for, and accessible to, people with disabilities? 			
POLICY FRAMEWORK			
<p>Existence of national policy/strategic framework for civic and political participation</p>	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	<p>Comments: Not met.</p>		
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does this strategic framework address the implementation of all civic and political rights referred to in the section on “Constitutional provisions” above? • Are there specific provisions referring to migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are there specific restrictions or 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p>		

other provisions that would restrict, deter or render impossible the realization of civic and political rights for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities?

- Is the framework published and available to all citizens?
- Is the framework in adequate format to be made available for, and accessible to, people with disabilities?
- Has the framework been developed with participation of civil society groups, including those representing migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities?
- Does the framework incorporate provisions for monitoring, evaluation and revision with participation of civil society groups, including those representing migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities?

	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<p>Existence of specific policies and measures to promote civic and political participation of migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, persons with disabilities, children and young people, women, ethnic or religious minorities</p>	<p>Comments: Not met</p>		
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At which level/s (national, provincial, municipal/local)? • What type of policies/measures? • Are these policies/measures publicly available and communicated to the concerned groups? • Are these policies/measures communicated in adequate format to be made available for, and accessible to, people with disabilities? • Were these policies/measures developed in consultation with concerned groups? • How are these policies/measures implemented and monitored? • Do these policies/measures incorporate provisions for monitoring, evaluation and revision with participation of civil society groups, including those representing migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p>		

Policies/Measures ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use	Fully met Partially met Not met		
	Comments: Partially met. Refer to answers above.		
If so, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At which level/s (national, provincial, municipal/local)? • What type of policies/measures? • Are there specific policies and measures for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? 	Comments/Responses: national, municipal and local levels policies and measures adopted by the MOIM measures targeting people with disabilities in specific.		
Policies/measures to institutionalize participation of concerned stakeholders' groups in government policy and decision-making	Fully met Partially met Not met		
	Comments: Not met		
If so, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At which level/s (national, provincial, municipal/local)? • What type of policies/measures? • Are there specific policies and measures for participation of migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? 	Comments/Responses:		

Policies/measures that enable or support community service	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At which level/s (national, provincial, municipal/local)? • What type of policies/measures? • Are there specific policies and measures that enable or support community service by migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are these policies/measures publicly available and communicated to the concerned groups? • Are these policies/measures communicated in adequate format to be made available for, and accessible to, people with disabilities? 	<p>Comments: Not met</p> <p>Comments/Responses:</p>		
Policies/measures that enable or support volunteerism	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At which level/s (national, provincial, municipal/local)? 	<p>Comments: Partially met. There is a National Committee for Volunteers in Lebanon. Also the MOSA has a department for Volunteers and international programmes funded by Italian Development Cooperation and World Bank (WB) are funded and executed by the MOSA.</p> <p>Comments/Responses: At national level, through the MOSA (Department of Volunteering) and the MOYS (through contracted nongovernmental organizations). At local level through municipal initiatives.</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What type of policies/measures? • Are there specific policies and measures that enable or support community service by migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are these policies/measures publicly available and communicated to the concerned groups? • Are these policies/measures communicated in adequate format to be made available for, and accessible to, people with disabilities? 	<p>Reinforcement of the National Volunteering Committee, and of the Department for Volunteering at the MOSA; Improving the volunteering concepts and application through a set of initiatives to be implemented at local level promoting social and civic inclusion and participation.</p> <p>Policies and measures developed by the MOSA and the MOYS that are translated through projects and local initiatives.</p> <p>These are communicated through the organizations that are concerned with volunteerism.</p> <p>These are communicated through the organizations that are concerned with volunteerism, also through the Ministries' websites.</p>		
<p>Policies/measures that enable or support social entrepreneurship</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At which level/s (national, provincial, municipal/local)? • What type of policies/measures? • Are there specific policies and measures that enable or support community service by migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are these policies/measures publicly 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p>		
<p>Comments: Not met</p>			

<p>available and communicated to the concerned groups?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are these policies/measures communicated in adequate format to be made available for, and accessible to, people with disabilities? 			
<p>Policies/measures that enable, support or foresee partnerships with NGOs and civil society organizations across policy areas</p>	<p>Fully met Partially met Not met</p>		
	<p>Comments: Partially met. Such policies and measures are available either through the programmes run by Ministries (e.g. MOSA, MOYS, Ministry of Environment) and mainly through internationally funded projects (e.g. EU programs on fostering participation of civil society organizations).</p>		
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At which level/s (national, provincial, municipal/local)? • What type of policies/measures? • Are there specific policies and measures that enable, support or foresee partnerships with NGOs and civil society organizations on issues affecting migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are these policies/measures publicly available and communicated to the concerned groups? • Are these policies/measures communicated in adequate format to be made available for, and accessible to, people with disabilities? 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>National and local</p> <p>Public-nongovernmental partnerships to implement initiatives and projects; internationally funded projects that require partnerships among several civil society associations.</p> <p>Government measures through contracts with service oriented civil society groups to serve migrant workers and members of their families, young people, PWD, women and children.</p> <p>These are usually communicated through announcements made by the concerned Ministry.</p> <p>Internet is increasingly becoming the way to inform concerned groups including PWD.</p>		

Policies/measures enabling access to and use of the Internet as an effective tool for dialogue about community issues and for reaching elected officials	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
		Comments: In process of development. The E-Strategy of the Lebanese Government foresees an E-Community Component which objective is to improve communication and information about issues of relevance to the Lebanese community.	
If so, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At which level/s (national, provincial, municipal/local)? • What type of policies/measures? • Are there specific policies/measures that are designed and conceived specifically for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are these policies/measures publicly available and communicated to the concerned groups? • Are these policies/measures communicated in adequate format to be made available for, and accessible to, people with disabilities? • Were these policies/measures developed with participation of civil society groups, including those representing migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? 	Comments/Responses: Not met. In process of development.		

Policies/measures enabling and providing free access to and use of electronic government (e-government) services	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At which level/s (national, provincial, municipal/local)? • What type of policies/measures? • Are there specific policies/measures that are designed and conceived specifically for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are these policies/measures publicly available and communicated to the concerned groups? • Are these policies/measures communicated in adequate format to be made available for, and accessible to, people with disabilities? • Were these policies/measures developed with participation of civil society groups, including those representing migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? 	<p>Comments: Partially met. A law on electronic transactions has been drafted and is awaiting consideration by the Parliament. A Telecom Regulatory Authority has been created to push forward the reform of the ICT sector. In the area of e-services, a number of services have been completely automated or upgraded.</p> <p>Comments/Responses: Central and municipal/local levels</p> <p>A number of services have been completely automated or upgraded. The government information portal, which contains around 4500 forms, has been upgraded. The focus is now on upgrading the government websites. With respect to the technical framework, efforts towards increasing the use of standards across government are underway. Discussion with major software providers have been taken to standardize all software applications in government. At the central level, initiatives have been taken to raise funds for smart applications (e.g. national ID-card or health card). Lebanon also started a number of capacity building initiatives, including ICT training for civil servants (outsourced to private sector). Community centers have been established with the support of private sector. To increase policy coordination capacity at Central level, and an IT strategy unit has been created.</p> <p>They are available online www.omsar.gov.lb</p>		

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK			
Existence of institutionalized bodies for dialogue and consultation with civil society groups, without any discrimination, at government, parliamentary or municipal level	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Not met There are no institutionalized bodies set for dialogue and consultations with civil society groups. However such consultations take place mainly through the internationally funded projects that aim at improving dialogue between the public-nongovernmental sectors at all levels.		
If so, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At which level/s (national, provincial, municipal/local)? How do they function? Do all members of such bodies have equal status and vote capacity? If not, what is the distinction made and what is the basis for it? Are there specific criteria and/or quota for the participation in such bodies? If so, please explain. Do these bodies incorporate representatives of migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? 	Comments/Responses: Informal dialogue and consultation groups held at national, municipal and local levels. No voting is made since they are not institutionalized Consultation and dialogue meetings are usually held in the framework of a comprehensive program, usually funded by an international organization.		
Existence of institutionalized bodies for the participation of civil society and stakeholders' groups in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
	Comments: Partially met. Bodies such as the Higher Council for Childhood (HCC), the National Council for Disability Affairs and the Higher Council for Urban Planning.		
If so, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At which level/s (national, provincial, municipal/local)? How do they function? 	Comments/Responses: Councils are nominated by the Council of Ministers, they are composed of government and nongovernment institutions, and their mandate is to develop and lobby for national sectoral policies.		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do all members of such bodies have equal status and vote capacity? If note, what is the distinction made and what is the basis for it? Are there specific criteria and/or quota for the participation in such bodies? If so, please explain. Do these bodies incorporate representatives of migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? 	<p>Criteria are mainly based on the relevance of the civil society groups to the specific sector (purpose of establishment, acknowledgement at national level of the results achieved by the specific group, etc.).</p>		
<p>All citizens have equal right to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government?</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the process? Are there specific provisions for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? 	<p>Comments/Responses: Recruitment at public government levels is made through the Civil Service Body, entitled by the Law, to recruit personnel for the various ministries, public administrations, local authorities and others as per the organizational structure and the terms of reference specified per institution. Candidates shall be of Lebanese nationality and complying with the technical and/ or administrative requirements of the specific job. The only provisions are related to persons with disabilities.</p>		
<p>Existence of civil/public service offices available at national, municipal and community level and open to all citizens, without discrimination</p>	<p>Fully met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Not met</p>
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do they function? 	<p>Comments/Responses: Public service office run under the supervision of the concerned ministry and funded through the</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are they funded? • Is there specifically trained personnel to provide services to migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities? • Are migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities, become employed by or engage voluntarily in, such offices? 	<p>Ministry that covers incurred administrative and services costs. Usually these services are conceived for low waged populations.</p> <p>They are funded through government financial support as well as through international funding (specific programmes).</p> <p>Most of the personnel of the public service offices, specifically those providing social and health services, are trained to meet the needs of different population groups. However, as these services do not meet all the needs requested by the population, specialized nongovernmental organizations tend to complement, and sometime to replace the role of the public offices, in service delivery.</p> <p>Lebanese citizens can be employed by the Lebanese public bodies. However, volunteering is open to all groups of the population</p>								
<p>Existence of organizations dedicated to the promotion of civic and political participation for all citizens, without discrimination, at national or local level</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="760 771 1167 803">Fully met</td> <td data-bbox="1167 771 1356 803">Partially met</td> <td data-bbox="1356 771 1942 803">Not met</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="760 803 1942 946"> <p>Comments: Fully met. Lebanon is characterized by the number of organizations, which aim at promoting civic and political participation at both national and local levels</p> </td> </tr> </table>			Fully met	Partially met	Not met	<p>Comments: Fully met. Lebanon is characterized by the number of organizations, which aim at promoting civic and political participation at both national and local levels</p>		
Fully met	Partially met	Not met							
<p>Comments: Fully met. Lebanon is characterized by the number of organizations, which aim at promoting civic and political participation at both national and local levels</p>									
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At which level/s (national, provincial, municipal/local)? • How do they function? • How are they funded? • Are there specific organizations created by migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities • Are there specific organizations dedicated to the promotion of civic 	<p>Comments/Responses: National, municipal and local. Organizations are created as per the Law 1909 and mandated to work nationally or locally as per the mission and vision they were established for. Organizations can be oriented towards service delivery, advocacy, training, other. For the purpose of achieving their objectives, projects are created and implemented.</p> <p>They are funded through government financial support (service oriented organizations supported by the MOSA; NGOs and youth associated supported by the MOYS) as well as through international funding.</p> <p>There are specific organizations created by and for women, persons with disabilities, and religious minorities. Other organizations are established for the purpose of supporting migrant workers and their families, children and youth.</p>								

<p>and political participation for migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities</p>			
<p>Existence of training programmes for officials or workers in public administration on civic and political participation in the last 12 months</p>	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At which level/s (national, provincial, municipal/local)? • Are there specific criteria/quota for participation in the training programmes? If so, please explain • Can migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young professional, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities participate in such programmes? If so, are they designed and provided in an adequate manner? 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p>		
<p>Existence of mechanisms and processes for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing policy measures relating to civic and political participation</p>	Fully met	Partially met	Not met
<p>If so,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At which level/s (national, provincial, municipal/local) and how often? • Do they foresee participation of, and 	<p>Comments/Responses:</p> <p>Higher Council for Childhood (HCC) has made a national plan of action for the participation for all children</p>		

<p>consultation with, civil society groups?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do they specifically foresee participation of, and consultation with, groups representing migrant workers and members of their families, indigenous and tribal peoples, young people, people with disabilities, women or ethnic or religious minorities?	
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IV. Social Inclusion of Young Persons with Disabilities (PWD)

In the framework of the National Youth Policy in Lebanon (2012), the youth age is defined from 15 to 29 years whereas UN uses the age group from 15-24 years. Involved experts argued that it is more relevant to include youth in late 20 years with regards to (un) employment difficulties.

The public policies in Lebanon do not differentiate or favour any of the marginalized groups, including women, persons with disabilities, children and youth, as well as migrant workers and their families. Most of the legal texts do not specifically address issues from a right-holder perspective, and therefore they are considered applicable to all citizens regardless of their social, religious, or economic background. This is applicable to legal texts in the education, environment, economic, development, cultural, scientific and other sectors.

In this section, we analyze the challenges of social inclusion in Lebanon with regards to the persons with disabilities and propose ways forward.

- ***Definition of Social inclusion with regards to PWD***

In our assessment, as an attempt to identify a potential definition for “social inclusion”, a first exercise was held as a result of an inter-ministerial meeting, which objective was to discuss the mandate and responsibilities that ministries embrace towards persons with disabilities. For this purpose, the representatives of the Ministries of Education and Higher Education, Social Affairs, Youth and Sport, Labour, Public Works and Transport, in addition to the National Council for Disability Affairs were contacted through the UNESCO National Commission, in order to respond to the following questions:

1. Does your Ministry deal with social inclusion issues? If yes, what is the definition of social inclusion from the Ministry's perspective?
2. What is the mechanism (department, focal point) responsible for social inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWD)?
3. What are the recent/ current policies, programmes, as well as prevailing ministerial decisions and legislations being designed and implemented to support social inclusion of PWD? Are they being implemented within specific legal framework (including conventions)? If so, which ones?
4. What is the budget of the Ministry related to services of relevance to PWD (at least the last budget approved by the Government)? What are the types of services included within this budget?

Among the ministries contacted, only the Ministry of Social Affairs provided a definition for “social inclusion”. According to the Section in charge of persons with disabilities- at the Ministry of Social Affairs- “social inclusion” of people with disabilities is one of the real trends or approaches that guarantees the right to equality between persons with disabilities and other persons with no disabilities, in all fields without any distinction or discrimination, in accordance with the principle of equal opportunities to learn and participate in social life. Inclusion can feature in different shapes and type. Forms of integration or inclusion can be spatial, academic, social, societal, partial and vocational. In this regard, the Ministry of Social Affairs pays attention to inclusion through the Section in charge of persons

with disabilities, which includes three interlinked departments: the Department of specialized care, the Department of specialized institutions and the Department of usage and operation¹³.

The feedback of the representative of the National Council for Disability Affairs pointed out that "inclusion" is a process and commitment. It requires a change in one's view to the other, in attitudes, in mind, and in culture¹⁴.

In the focus group discussions, following actions were suggested that:

- To increase awareness on the rights of the persons with disabilities.
- To improve the networking among stakeholders working in the disability field, including government and nongovernment organizations.
- To use the International Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities as a reference to amend the Law 220/2000 and its applications.

• *Laws and policies related to PWD*

For what concerns the persons with disabilities, particularly children and youth, the law 220/2000 (Rights of Persons with Disabilities) remains the significant legal reference for this type of population. Despite its issuance in year 2000, the law still lacks executive mandate and enforcement.

It is to note that the Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union (LPHU) launched in February 2013 the "Review in legislation and practice of the Law 220/2000", in the presence of the Lebanese Prime Minister and the Minister of Social Affairs. During that event, the Prime Minister declared the year 2013 as the year of implementation of the Law 220/2000, and consequently the nomination of a ministerial committee to follow up on that matter. The Minister of Social Affairs announced the establishment of the Observatory for the rights of persons with disabilities, jointly executed by LPHU and the Ministry of Social Affairs. The Minister of Social Affairs informed the participants to that event that the text of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was sent to the President of the Republic for the purpose of ratification. Unfortunately, the Cabinet resignation in March 2013 did not allow for a further follow-up of these decisions and steps.

The LPHU review of the Law 220/2000 embraced the rights to health, inclusive environment, movement, habitat, education, sport, employment, and political participation. It also covered issues related to tax exemption, loans, promoting local produce, and elections. Finally, it highlighted the status quo of the different national committees expected to look at the rights of the persons with disabilities.

The Law 220/2000 (Rights of Persons with Disabilities) implicitly mentioned the concept of social inclusion particularly in its preamble. Allusion to that concept is referred to as per the following:

"Every human being, regardless of his/her physical or intellectual potential, has the right to the enjoyment of life on an equal basis with others",

"All direct and indirect factors, that cause disability, trigger a destabilization of a fundamental principle of law, which is the equality among citizens. Thus, the society, the state and the law should work to restore the missing balance between disabled and non-disabled persons through ensuring a set of fundamental rights that persons with disabilities pine for",

¹³ Majida Jbeili, Ministry of Social Affairs, Section in charge of persons with disabilities

¹⁴ Soeur Patricia Moussallem, Institut Père Roberts pour les jeunes sourds

" The legislative effort related to the issue of disability is divided into two parts:

- *The first part aims to allow for social inclusion opportunities with utmost independence, thus enabling the person with disability to play the role of effective and positive citizen, and consequently to express it clearly in the law: in the definition of the self-evident right, and in the determination of the best ways to get this right;*
- *The second part is to act continually through state systems and regulations in order to embed this right, to entrust it to beneficiaries and to transform the relationship between the public and private sector (institution or person) from a relationship based on affiliation (familial, political, sectarian, etc.) to a right-based relationship".*

" Based on the foregoing, any legislative work in the field of securing the rights of persons with disabilities cannot be accidental or circumstantial, it is rather continuous and permanent, and it must be at the core of the concerns of the state and the people, with the aim of continuous development and improvement. It is incumbent upon the Lebanese state to intensify its efforts to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities, and to secure access to these rights and to allow enjoying a decent life, not out of pity or compassion, but as a matter of right" .

" The Law(Rights of Persons with Disabilities) intends to laying emphasis on the rights that should be enjoyed by the persons with disabilities, and to developing the detailed provisions, frameworks and practical mechanisms that shall ensure for these rights to become a fact and a practice, not only a principle and a theory, whereby work in the field of disability can evolve: from care and pure charity work to the right of the person with disability and the responsibility on the society and the state; and from marginalization to full inclusion in social life and in the economic cycle of the country" .

The concept of **"educational inclusion"** figures in the National Educational Plan for Persons with Disabilities that was developed in 2012 by the Center for Educational Research and Development of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. Moreover, the goals embraced by the Plan reflect a wide inclusion perspective into the education sector, as per the following:

1. To broaden the reception capacity in public schools in order to ensure the principle of equal opportunities and conditions for full enrollment of different categories of students;
2. To improve the terms, conditions and quality of basic education without discrimination as a preventive measure to reduce drop-out and marginalization;
3. To develop caring mechanisms for all kinds of deficiencies to compensate for the poorest social families of the society;
4. To ensure school support mechanisms for children with disabilities;
5. To build the capacities of some members of the teaching staff on how to educate and support persons with special needs;
6. To secure inclusive schools, including buildings, equipment and tools adapted to all cases of children with disabilities;
7. To bring attention to the quality and the harmonization of curricula for various categories of students;
8. To introduce specialists into the school structure to detect and treat disabilities and difficulties;
9. To raise awareness on the culture of rights to all segments of the Lebanese society; and,
10. To open the school on the surrounding environment, allowing for the involvement of parents in prevention programs.

It is worth highlighting the results of a public awareness activity that was carried out as part of the National Inclusion Project¹⁵ (2007), which was intended to empower PWD and their families in order to advocate for their rights in instituting inclusive policies, to reinforce the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream schooling, and to disseminate and promote inclusive policies and culture. As part of the public awareness, the project involved the introduction of inclusion as a new concept. Activities of the report indicated that some Lebanese people have never heard of inclusion, others matched it with “rehabilitation”, while a third group of people thought inclusion had to do only with persons with disabilities. In addition, directly related stakeholders such as PWD welfare associations and officials in various ministries interpreted inclusion as a complex and hard operation requiring a lot of efforts.

• *Suggested Steps for Participatory National Action Plan Preparation*

This overall assessment exercise demonstrated the needs for the availability of an operational national action plan in Lebanon. This action plan shall be comprehensive, embracing actions of institutional, regulatory, technical and financial nature. In the present moment, producing such action plan is not likely to be possible for a number of reasons:

- The timeline defined for the exercise by the UNESCO is very limited, taking into account that most of the participatory exercises took place in the summer season (June onwards);
- The information/data that were compiled are not sufficient to produce such plans;
- The volatile political and security situation in Lebanon, which has limited to a great extent the mobility of stakeholders, thus undermining the participatory policy approach;
- The irregular participation of the government counterparts;
- The impact of the Syrian crisis on the social services made available to both Syrian and Lebanese, causing an increasing pressure on the socioeconomic priorities in the country.

Until today, the available information on PWDs relies on the statistics of the Ministry of Social Affairs (PWDs registered at the Department of Disabilities) and the CERD database on the students with disabilities detected in public schools. However, these are not all the persons with disabilities living in Lebanon. Therefore, and in order to make this action plan realistic and viable, a key first step should be the development of an inclusive and up-to-date database on the persons with disabilities, taking into account the type of disability and the age of the disabled. Collaboration between the Central Administration for Statistics (CAS), the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education constitutes a vital cornerstone to produce accurate baseline data necessary to generate indicators with best and worst case scenarios.

Another disparity observed while working on the assessment is the lack of any references or studies that focus on young persons with disabilities. In fact, and besides the efforts made by the Higher Council for Childhood (e.g. amendments proposed to the Law 220/2000 to make specific reference to the rights and needs of the child with disabilities, other), all other available reports do focus on the rights of the persons with disabilities at large, thus limiting any likely targeted intervention(s) towards children and youth with disabilities. Government and nongovernment organizations are encouraged to focus in their research on the children and youth with disabilities. These studies can be ultimately used to address

¹⁵ Final report of the National Inclusion Project. Project financed by Council for Development for Reconstruction/ World Bank, and managed by a Consortium of four organizations: Youth Association of the Blind, Lebanese Down Syndrome Association, Lebanese Physically Handicap Union, Save the Children-Sweden.

gaps in the legislation in the first place, as well as to develop a national YPWD policy, similar to the national youth policy initiative that was led by the Ministry of Youth and Sport. The knowledge about this segment of the society can help to better design the physical infrastructure of the country, which does lack such considerations until today.

The inequality of issues addressed by nongovernmental organizations working with PWDs in general, and youth-related in specific, was also observed. Indeed, most of these are service-delivery oriented, while very few were identified as to being involved in policy-making matters. This imbalance in the civil society's knowledge about and their involvement in the details of designed policies may require further efforts to disseminate information about the on-going discussions related to policy design and to use their practical knowledge to feed these policies.

At ministry level, the services and inclusion-related needs of PWDs in general, and those of young persons with disabilities, should be strengthened with a clear earmarked budget for their needs. Though this might theoretically exist in a number of ministries, the practice does not reflect the progress made at institutional level in the past few years.

The matrix (Annex I) is a useful tool to support the participatory preparation of a National Action Plan, which is time bounded with clear indicators of selected priority policy areas. A preliminary discussions during the induction workshop (2 April 2013) by a group of stakeholders, mainly from NGOs, identified existing and non-existing data and information, which is prerequisite for the exercise.

The indicators referred to in the section *"Indicators of concern to young persons with disabilities (PWD) in Lebanon"* can be used as a start-up phase to guarantee that some of the rights of the young persons with disabilities are met at least at the medium term. Each of these indicators necessitates to further work on the legal instruments, the institutional capacities, the technical and financial resources. The creation of sectoral active working groups is recommended, co-led by the main ministry and the Higher Council for Disability Affairs. The support of the international organizations is highly recommended.

- ***Indicators of concern to young persons with disabilities (PWD) in Lebanon***

As previously stated, the assessment of the level of inclusiveness of public policies embraces a number of indicators that figure as part of five thematic areas: (1) education, (2) science, (3) culture, (4) communication and information, and (5) civic and political participation. For the purpose of facilitating the monitoring process, a number of indicators are selected for the purpose of tracking the progress to be made at medium term.

(1) Education

Education is undeniably the most significant right to children and youth with disabilities. The right to education is explicitly recognized in the Lebanese Constitution (dated 1926 and its amendments), which affirms in its Preamble (point b) that Lebanon is a founding and active member of the United Nations Organization and committed to its charters and to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the State embodies these principles in all of the rights and areas without exception. Article 10 states that education is free, provided it does not encroach on public order or morals, nor affect the dignity of religions or any of the denominations.

The Law 220/ 2000 related to the Rights of Persons with disabilities was signed on 14 June 2007, however not ratified until today. According to this Law, persons with disabilities are entitled to access the general education system on an equal basis with others. However, the majority of schools are not fit to accommodate students with special needs. Deficiencies are related to availability of necessary facilities, mainly in terms of proper equipment, buildings, special teaching aids, and qualified special education educators. Even though modest initiatives have started in this regard, similar projects do lack proper follow-up and expansion.

Indicator: Making at least primary education compulsory

Status: Not met

Primary education in Lebanon extends to grade 9 which corresponds to age 15. Compulsory education, according to Law No. 686 (16/3/1998), stops at age of 12 years old. However, this law is yet to be applied, in particular when it concerns children with disabilities.

Indicator: Right to education for all

Status: Partially met

Despite Lebanon commitment to the right to education for all, yet it did not find its way to its application, at least in public schools and a large number of private schools. Educational establishments are still not suitable to host, and consequently to integrate students with disabilities. Urgent inclusion measures require: rehabilitating buildings, making educational and learning equipment and tools available, and recruiting educational specialists, and consequently, supporting them administratively, technically and financially.

Indicator: Establishment of the right of access to grants/scholarships/credits/loans for students

Status: Partially met

Access to grants and scholarships are available through government support (laws), private schools and universities, private foundations as well as through credits and loans (private banks). Each institution has its own criteria for granting educational financial support. The Law 220/2000 (Rights of Persons with Disabilities) states in article 60 (point "f") that institutions in charge of studying schools and universities' grants, in all areas, shall give an absolute priority to grant requests formulated by persons with disabilities for disabled persons holders of the disability cards. However, this is not adequately applied until today.

Indicator: Recognition of equality in terms of access to public educational institutions and programmes

Status: Partially met

Article 60 (adherence to educational institutions) of the Law 220/2000 (Rights of persons with disabilities) clearly prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability as per the following: "The "disability" does not constitute in itself an obstacle of any kind, to adhere or request access to any learning or educational institution, whether public or private. Accordingly, it is considered cancelled by virtue any text that requires for the purpose of enrolment or access to any educational institution or a public or private education of any kind, conditions such as healthy physical structure or disability or handicap or illness or other similar expressions". However, this recognition of equality is limited within the public educational institutions and programmes.

Indicator: Existence of specific provisions in the law on the right of persons with disabilities to education

Status: Fully met

The Law 220/2000 (Rights of Disabilities) specifies in its 7th Chapter (the right of person with disabilities in education and sport) that every person with disability has the right to education, in other words the

law guarantees equal opportunities for education for all persons with disabilities, children and adults, in all learning or educational institutions, both in general formal schools (classes) and private classes if necessary (article 59).

Indicator: Existence of policies to ensure equality of access and achievement for persons with disabilities

Status: Partially met

The CERD of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) prepared a National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities in 2012. Also, the Higher Council for Childhood (HCC) is preparing a national strategy for accessibility of children with disabilities. Public policy measures are currently under development as a response to the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities (2012).

Indicator: Existence of policies for ensuring access to primary education of children and youth with disabilities.

Status: Partially met

In 2012, a specific National Educational Plan for Persons with Disabilities was developed as a response to the requirements set in the Law 220/2000 regarding the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Indicator: Existence of policies directed to out-of-school children, including children with disabilities.

Status: Not met

(2) Science

Indicator: Existence of policies improving the capacity building of human resources, particularly persons with disabilities

Status: Partially met

Capacity building of human resources is part of the public administrations' mandate. Also a large number of nongovernmental organizations include within their policies and programmes capacity building initiatives taking place at national and local levels. However, the initiatives targeting persons with disabilities, particularly children and youth, are still limited.

(3) Culture

Indicator: Existence of laws/regulations/decrees regulating public assistance and subsidies for the cultural sector with particular emphasis on cultural minorities and disadvantaged groups

Status: partially met

The Ministry of Culture is home to two funds:

- The Support Fund for Cultural Activities and Industries, which supports programs and activities in the fields covered by the Directorate General of Cultural Affairs. It contributes to the funding of the outcomes and activities of the cultural industries and knowledge economy, especially supporting the production of movies, documents and audio-visual publications;
- The Fund for Antiquities and Traditional and Historical Monuments, which funds public and private programs aiming at searching for archaeological, traditional and historical sites and collections, excavating them and uncovering them. It also aims at protecting, restoring, developing and equipping archaeological, traditional and historical sites and collections in order to use them for the public interest.

Though there is no discrimination among the criteria for the allocation of funding, neither are certain groups prohibited from receiving public funds, nevertheless the existing regulations and laws do not expressly spell out any mention to cultural minorities neither to marginalized groups. Law 220/2000 (Rights of Persons with Disabilities) provides for the adoption of appropriate measures to enable persons with disabilities to have the opportunity to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential, not only for their own benefit, but also for the enrichment of society. This matter is still far from being implemented.

Indicator: Existence of laws/regulations/decrees to create propitious environments for cultural diversity and creativity: promotion of participation of young people in cultural life, access to cultural venues infrastructures and materials for women, persons with disabilities, minorities, indigenous peoples and migrants.

Status: not met.

Beside Article 50 of the Public Budget Law which states that children with disabilities can access the archaeological and touristic sites with half tariffs, no other measures have been observed.

Indicator: Existence of mechanisms to consult representatives of different cultural groups, including youth with disabilities, in the formulation and evaluation of cultural policies.

Status: Not met

(4) Communication and Information

Indicator: Existence of mechanisms of consultation involving different stakeholders groups, including persons with disabilities, in the development, implementation and evaluation of national information policies

Status: Not met.

(5) Civic and Political Participation

Indicator: Existence of a "framework law" for equal and non-discriminatory civic and political participation guiding sectoral policies.

Status: Partially met.

Specific provisions are foreseen for the persons with disabilities, particularly regarding the election process. Article 92 of the Election Law states that the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities takes into account the needs of persons with disabilities in the organization of electoral processes, and facilitates their procedures that allow them to exercise their right to vote without obstacles. The application of this article takes into account the opinion of associations working with persons with disabilities, stipulated in the Disability Rights Act No. 220 dated 05/29/2000. However, the application of this law still lacks any enforcement measure.

Indicator: Explicit inclusion of the right for every woman and man to have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his/her country

Status: Partially met.

Equal access to public services is granted by the Constitution and laws governing each Ministry. In practice, this right is not fully applied, particularly for youth PWD in the health, education, employment,

access to public spaces, etc. Although services are ensured by law 220/2000, the level and quality of services are not fully met due to weak legislative enforcement.

Indicator: Existence of legislation regulating electoral and voting processes that ensures, for all citizens, without discrimination, the right to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies

Status: Partially met.

The Lebanese Constitution ensures the right for all to be elected in all publicly elected bodies. However in practice, and due to the confessional and political structure of the Country, political affiliations remain the fundamental way to be elected based on the prevailing system of the sectarian quotas. There is no quota set for persons with disabilities, particularly Young PWD.

Indicator: Existence of laws/regulations/decrees that allow and enable all citizens, without discrimination, to take part in the Government as well as in the conduct of public affairs at any level and to have equal access to public service

Status: Partially met.

The Constitution guarantees for all Lebanese citizens to take part in the government without discrimination. Article 73 of the Law 220/2000 (Law for the rights of the disabled) related to the allocation of jobs in the public sector states that 3% at least of the total number of job categories is allocated to persons with disabilities in public sector. Article 74 (allocation of jobs in the private sector) impose to private companies which have not less than 30 but no more than 60 employees to employ one person with disability that meets the required qualifications. If the number of employees exceeds 60 persons, then the private firm shall apply the 3% quota. However the provisions of the Law are not fully applied. This quota is not applicable at the private sector.

Annex (1)

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- Law no.37 dated 16 October 2008 related to Cultural Belongings, Ministry of Culture;
- Law no 35 dated 16 October 2008, regarding the Organization of the Ministry of the Culture
- Decree Law no.8377 dated 30/12/1961 and its amendments regarding the Organization of the Ministry of Public Health;
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- Proposed Amendments (amendments, cancellation, additions) proposed to Law 220/2000 to achieve education inclusion according to the International Convention for the rights of people with disabilities, Higher Council for Childhood, Ministry of Social Affairs;
- The Legal status of sport and scout associations in Lebanon. Judge Antoine Nachef, Government Consultative Council, Ghazal printing press, Lebanon, first edition, 2003
- The new Law on Intellectual and Artistic Property Rights with a comparative study on electronic crimes. Dr. Ghassan Rabah, Nawfal printing press, first edition, 2001;
- Internal Governance for NGOs, Capacity Building for Poverty Reduction, NGO Resource & Support Unit, Social Training Center, Ministry of Social Affairs, Reference Book 2004;
- The status of Lebanon in the field of human rights from the perspective of the mechanisms of the United Nations for Human Rights. Lebanese Parliament and UNDP. Series of studies and information, volume 4, November 2005;
- Preliminary comparative assessment study to some Arab laws concerning the rights of persons with disabilities: Jordan - Palestine - Tunisia - Algeria – Lebanon, Ghassan Moukhaiber, Lawyer and Member of the Lebanese Parliament;
- The Institute on Religion and Public Policy: Report on Religious Freedom in Lebanon, produced by the Institute on Religion and Public Policy;
- Media in Lebanon, report compiled and prepared by Dr. Dima Dabbous in collaboration with H. Mayassian, R. Al-Saleh, N. Al-Horr and J. Baaklini;
- Development Reforms in Lebanon, Between concepts of sustainable development and the challenges of war and rehabilitation; A civil society perspective, prepared by the Arab NGO Network for Development;
- Common Presentation of the Associations for Persons with Disabilities submitted to the "Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights" on the occasion of the ninth session of the "Universal Periodic Review 2010," regarding Lebanon compliance to the obligations concerning the rights of persons with disabilities;
- United Nations Development Assistance Framework: Lebanon, 2010-2014;

- The situation of children in Lebanon based on the Millennium Development Goals and World Fit for Children, Higher Council for Children, Ministry of Social Affairs;
- Complete Lebanese Laws of the Ministries of: Education, Youth and Sport, Social Affairs, Information, Foreign Affairs, Justice, and Labor;
- National Education Strategy, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2006;
- National Educational Plan for Persons with Disabilities, Center for Educational Research and Development, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2012;
- Enhancing civil society participation in public policy processes, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA);
- Child marriage and the Law: Legislative Reform Initiative paper series. Rangita de Silva-de-Alwis, Wellesley Centers for Women. January 2008;
- Discrimination in kindergarten, Approach on the basis of gender, Dr. Kabbara-Shaarani A. & Dr. Fahmieh Charafeddine, UNESCO & Committee for Follow-up on Women Issues, 2010;
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- Critical review of legislation and the application of the law 220 / 2000 issued by Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union (LPHU), 2013;
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- School-related Gender Based Violence, A study implemented by UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States, in collaboration with La Sagesse University and funded by the Government of Italy, 2012;
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- Violence Against children in schools: a regional analysis of Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen, Manara Network for Child Rights, August 2011;
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- National Social Development Strategy, Ministry of Social Affairs, 2010;
- Majal, Periodic Review of the Observatory of nongovernmental associations in Lebanon, bulletin 7, dated 31/1/2002, issued by CTRDA;

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- Disability and Livelihoods in Lebanon, Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union (LPHU), Sylvana Lakkis & Eddie Thomas, April 2003;
- Biotechnology in Lebanon, Dr. Lamis Chalak, Lebanese University and Lebanon Agricultural Research Institute (LARI);
- Confessionalism and Electoral Reform in Lebanon. Arda Arsenian Ekmekji, Ph.D., July 2012;
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- <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Local-News/2012/Nov-28/>
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- <http://www.icnl.org/research/monitor/lebanon.html>
- <http://www.ministryinfo.gov.lb/main/MinistryOfInformation/OrganizationoftheMinistry.aspx>
- <http://www.tra.gov.lb/Annual-reports>
- <http://www.modernheritageobservatory.org/resources.php>
- <http://www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws/index.php>
- <http://www.industry.gov.lb/pages/default.aspx>

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- Michel Daher, MD, Secretary General, Lebanese National Consultative Committee on Ethics (LNCCE).
- Ms. Nadine Deeb, LNCCE Executive Secretary.
- Mr. Charbel Moussallem, Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
- Amal Habib (Ph.D), Science advisor for Human and Social Sciences, National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS).
- Ms. Berna Habib, Advocacy Officer, Frontiers Ruwad Association.
- Ms. Rima Abi Nader, KAFA.
- Mrs. Carine Khawaja, Coordinator of the Portfolio on Children with Disabilities, Higher Council for Children, Ministry of Social Affairs.
- Ms. Rita Karam, Secretary General, Higher Council for Children, Ministry of Social Affairs.
- Ms. Hyam Sakr, Head of Department of Specialized Welfare, Ministry of Social Affairs.
- Ms. Majida Jbeili, Department of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Affairs.
- Ms. Jocelyn Kalouch, Social worker, Women's Department, Ministry of Social Affairs.
- Soeur Patricia Moussallem, Institut Père Roberts pour les jeunes sourds.
- Ms. Manal Moussallem, Advisor to Minister of Environment, Ministry of Environment.
- Moussa Charafeddine, MD, Honorary Life Member Inclusion International.
- Ms. Imane El Ajami, Mouvement Social Libanais.

b) Social Inclusiveness Strategic Action Plan (Draft 1)

Objective 1: To improve the national legal and institutional framework on disability					
OUPUTS	INDICATORS		RESPONSIBLE ENTITY	TIMETABLE	
	BEST CASE SCENARIO	WORST CASE SCENARIO		START	END
To ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) <u>Baseline data:</u> - Lebanon signed CRPD in 2007			Ministry of Social Affairs Council of Ministers	2013	2015
To review the Law 220/2000 to coincide with the term of the Convention <u>Baseline data:</u> - Law 220/2000 - CRPD Convention			National Council for Disability Affairs Ministry of Social Affairs Council of Ministers	2013	2014
To review the Lebanese definition of disability in conformity with international definitions. <u>Baseline data:</u> - International reports (e.g. WHO, World Bank, other) on disability			National Council for Disability Affairs Ministry of Social Affairs	2013	2014
To convert National Council for Disability Affairs into an independent structure directly affiliated to the Prime Minister's Office <u>Baseline data:</u>			Ministry of Social Affairs Council of Ministers	2013	2016

Objective 2: To improve the social protection services provided to young people with disability.

Overall baseline data:

- 80,703 persons with disability have a disability card by January 2013
- 7,638 persons have multiple disability and 353 autistic disability
- 15,000 persons with disability are estimated to range between 14 and 24 years old

OUTCOMES & OUPUTS	INDICATORS		RESPONSIBLE ENTITY	TIMETABLE	
	BEST CASE SCENARIO	WORST CASE SCENARIO		START	END
<p>To increase the budget of “Access et Droit” program to cover the costs of technical aid and equipment to all types of disability including visually impaired and deaf persons</p> <p><u>Baseline data:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 billions L.L. is the program budget in 2006 - 7 billions L.L. is the new proposed budget for Right and Access Program (approved or not?) 	Budget increased by xxx%	New proposed budget is approved	Ministry of Social Affairs	2013	2015
<p>To include PWDs specialized services in the basket of assistance provided to poorest Lebanese families included in the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP).</p> <p><u>Baseline data:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Xxx of families benefiting from the NPTP - XXX of persons with disabilities out of the total number of targeted families 	Specialized support is provided to people with disabilities, by type and age breakdown of disability	Standardized support is provided to all identified PWDs	Ministry of Social Affairs	2013	2015

Objective 3: To provide all persons with disabilities the right to benefit from health, rehabilitation and support services					
OUPUTS	INDICATORS		RESPONSIBLE ENTITY	TIMETABLE	
	BEST CASE SCENARIO	WORST CASE SCENARIO		START	END
To establish a PWD Independent Health care Fund that provides health care support including outdoor health care <u>Baseline data:</u> - Decision of the Ministry of Finance			Ministry of Public Health Ministry of Finance	2013	2018
To provide public hospitals staff with necessary training and outreach to improve health care services provided to PWDs <u>Baseline data:</u> - XXX staffs are needed to cover the medical needs of PWDs at hospitals level			Ministry of Public Health	2013	2015
To include disability in the curriculum of medical and para-medical universities, both public and private. <u>Baseline data:</u> - No baseline data			Ministry of Public Health Ministry of Education and Higher Education	2013	2015
To reinforce ministerial decisions aiming at a recognition of the disability card holder by public and private hospitals <u>Baseline data:</u> - Circular of the Ministry of Public Health	80,703 disability card holders have access to free hospital services	Specific services (which ones?) are considered as priority services free of charge to PWDs in hospitals	Ministry of Public Health Syndicate of Hospitals Ministry of Social Affairs	2013	2014

Objective 4: To ensure inclusive educational opportunities and services to PWDs in both public and private schools and universities.

Overall baseline data:

- XXX children with disability are enrolled in private and public schools
- XXX children with disability benefit from educational services provided by specialized schools
- XXX young men and women are enrolled in public and private universities

OUPUTS	INDICATORS		RESPONSIBLE ENTITY	TIMETABLE	
	BEST CASE SCENARIO	WORST CASE SCENARIO		START	END
<p>To design and implement training programs for school administrators and teachers on how to deal with PWDs</p> <p><u>Baseline data:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - XXX administrators and teachers were trained in previous initiatives - XXX administrators and teachers are needed to cover the total number of PWD children in schools 			Ministry of Education and Higher Education UNESCO	2013	2015
<p>To develop an educational project to promote positive awareness program in schools towards PWDs</p> <p><u>Baseline data:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lesson learned/ success story from previous project/ initiative 			Ministry of Education and Higher Education Ministry of Social Affairs, UNESCO, NGOs	2013	2014
<p>To adopt and promote a national standardized sign language.</p> <p><u>Baseline data:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - XXX visually impaired children and youth are schools and universities 			Ministry of Education and Higher Education		
<p>To ensure and provide visually impaired children with necessary books</p> <p><u>Baseline data:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - XXX visually impaired children and youth are schools and universities 			Ministry of Education and Higher Education		
<p>To increase the number of primary and secondary schools that are accessible to PWD children by providing them with incentives <u>Baseline data:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - XXX schools are accessible to PWD children - Budget allocated by the Ministry of Education and Higher 					

Objective 5: To improve the accessibility and transport facilities for PWDs					
OUPUTS	INDICATORS		RESPONSIBLE ENTTY	TIMETABLE	
	BEST CASE SCENARIO	WORST CASE SCENARIO		START	END
To ensure that all public buses are accessible to PWDs <u>Baseline data:</u> -	Accessibility and transport facilities are available nationwide	Accessibility and transport facilities are made available key cities	Ministry of Public Works and Transport	2013	2018
To enforce the newly adopted codes of accessibility for new buildings and constructions <u>Baseline data:</u> -			Ministry of Public Works and Transport (Directorate General of Urban Planning) Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	2013	2018
To monitor the compliance of central, regional and local administrations with the Minimum Standards for Buildings and Installations related to PWDs accessibility <u>Baseline data:</u> - Minimum Standards for Buildings and Installations - Existing monitoring reports			Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	2013	2014
To ensure minimum road safety standards to PWDs through rehabilitating sidewalks, parking lots, traffic signs and lights at municipalities level. <u>Baseline data:</u> - Minimum Standards for Buildings and Installations			Ministry of Interior and Municipalities Ministry of Social Affairs	2013	2015
To facilitate access to financial support and other incentives to private facilities (including hospitals, restaurants, hotels, theaters, other) that are willing to convert into PWD friendly facility. <u>Baseline data:</u> -			Ministry of Public Works and Transport; Ministry of Social Affairs; Chambers of	2013	2015

			Commerce and Industry		
To initiate national and local awareness campaigns targeting municipalities responsibilities towards ensuring the rights of PWDs to safe and sound accessibility and movements. <u>Baseline data:</u> -			Ministry of Interior and Municipalities NGOs	2013	2014

Objective 6: To provide PWDs with wider accessibility and opportunities to employment					
OUPUTS	INDICATORS		RESPONSIBLE ENTITY	TIMETABLE	
	BEST CASE SCENARIO	WORST CASE SCENARIO		START	END
To enforce the 3% employment quota of PWDs in both the public and private sector <u>Baseline data:</u> - Law 220/2000 - Xxx PWDs employed through the Civil Servant Council - Existing assessment reports			Ministry of Labor Ministry of Finance Social Security Directorate		
To empower the National Employment Institute to play a more leading role in providing employment to PWDs <u>Baseline data:</u> -					
To activate the employment fund in order to support the rehabilitation of PWDs for jobs. <u>Baseline data:</u> -					
To adjust the unemployment benefit decree to widen the number of PWDs benefiting from this decree <u>Baseline data:</u> - XXX PWDs currently benefit from the unemployment benefit decree					
To conduct a market analysis about types and profiles of employment that are made available to PWDs as well as about other potential types and profiles of employment					

opportunities that can be promoted among PWDs <u>Baseline data:</u> -					
To establish a database of PWD graduates to promote among public and private sectors <u>Baseline data:</u> -					
To initiate dialogue and agreements with private sector (chambers, banking sector, industrial, education, media, other) to increase opportunities of PWD employment <u>Baseline data:</u> -					
To initiate a market-based training program targeting PWD graduates to increase their capacities and skills <u>Baseline data:</u> -					
To establish an awareness program to inform PWDs about their rights at work (tailored information and training material per type of disability, guiding sessions, career education forums in secondary schools, media, other) <u>Baseline data:</u> -					

Objective 7: To provide PWDs with wider integration opportunities in sport and cultural activities					
OUTPUTS	INDICATORS		RESPONSIBLE ENTITY	TIMETABLE	
	BEST CASE SCENARIO	WORST CASE SCENARIO		START	END
To reinforce coordination between government and NGO that promote PWD-related sport plans and initiatives <u>Baseline data:</u> -					
To provide a stronger support to disability sports and Paralympics. <u>Baseline data:</u> -					

Objective 8: To improve the political and civic participation of PWDs					
OUPUTS	INDICATORS		RESPONSIBLE ENTITY	TIMETABLE	
	BEST CASE SCENARIO	WORST CASE SCENARIO		START	END
To make all voting pools accessible to PWDs <u>Baseline data:</u> -					
To promote sign posters on voting regulations for deaf voters <u>Baseline data:</u> -					
To give blind persons the right to have an assistant in the voting place <u>Baseline data:</u> -					
To give the persons with intellectual disability the right to vote -					
To increase the number of young PWD in the decision making of DPO					

c) List of Participants in the national induction workshop (2 April 2013)

#	Name	Institution
1.	Salah Din Khalil	جمعية الشباب الاسلامي
2.	Marie Rose Gemayel	Lebanese School for Deaf & Blind Baabda
3.	Roger Ziadeh	جمعية مركز بيت الاطفال
4.	Fadi Mansour	Caritas
5.	Antoinette Abi Rizk	SESOBEL
6.	Fadi Halabi	EDAN
7.	Soukayna Zein	L'Association libanaise pour l'éducation spécialisée - Basta
8.	Imad Srour	Special needs Kids Care Association - Bint Jbeil
9.	Mahassen Hachach	Dr Mohammad Khaled Social Associations
10.	Hiba Hallaq	Dr Mohammad Khaled Social Associations
11.	Lina Baghdadi	Dr Mohammad Khaled Social Associations
12.	Ali Azzam	Amal Association
13.	Jalal Karaki	Hadi Institute for Deaf & Blind children
14.	Nisrine Khodr	Orphan care Association- Saida
15.	Miriam Maaliqi	College des Freres Deddeh - Koura
16.	Randa Jitani	College des Freres Deddeh - Koura
17.	Amal Sayyah Chebli	Rayon d'espoir - Zahle
18.	Salwa Tahtouh Rouhana	Rayon d'espoir - Zahle
19.	Rida Hammoud	Association of Islamic Charitable supply
20.	Toni Daher	Saint Luke's center
21.	Rita Ghareeb	Ministry of Education
22.	Mayris Zakhour	La Vigne - Taalabaya
23.	Ghassan Salamani	Ayyam Raja Association - Zahle
24.	Georges Xanthopoulos	Arc en ciel
25.	Alexandra Heinsjo Jackson	ESCWA
26.	Marwa Hajjar	Al mourou'a Association for Special Needs
27.	Jeanette Chamoun	Lebanese School for Deaf & Blind Baabda
28.	Jouhayna Nasr	جمعية معاً للتربية المتخصصة - عاليه
29.	Amal Farhat Bassil	AFEL
30.	Ibrahim Abdalla	National Council on Disability
31.	Hussein Ismail	Learning center for the deaf
32.	Nabila Fares	ACSAUVEL
33.	Antoine Zakhia	Ministry of Social Affairs
34.	Majida Jubeily	Ministry of Social Affairs
35.	Carine Khaweja	Ministry of Social Affairs
36.	Rita Karam	Ministry of Social Affairs
37.	Malina Moussa	Orphan care Association- Saida
38.	Elham Abou Jaoude	جمعية بيت سيدة الحنان - برمانا
39.	Maha Chouman Jbai	الجمعية اللبنانية لرعاية اليتيم
40.	Martha Tabet	Center for Educational Research and Development
41.	Nahida Khalil	Mouna Specialised Association - Nabatyeh
42.	Sawsan Mahdi	UNESCO Consultant
43.	Nawaf Kabbara	UNESCO Consultant
44.	Ramza Jaber Saad	National Commission for UNESCO
45.	Patrick Daou	ILO regional bureau
46.	Alexandra Heinsjo-Jackson	UN-ESCWA
47.	Seiko Sugita	UNESCO

d) List of Participants to Focus Group Meetings (29-31 July 2013)

Focus Group 1: Women and Gender (29 July 2013, UNESCO Beirut)

Of the 19 invited organizations (4 governmental and 15 non-governmental), 9 organizations (2 governmental and 7 non-governmental) attended.

Organization	Attending Representative
<p>ABAAD (Dimensions)-Resource Center for Gender Equality (ABAAD) Location: Baabda, Lebanon National Civil Society Organization Tel: +961 (1) 28 38 20 +961 (1) 28 38 20 URL: http://www.abaadmena.org E-mail: abaad@abaadmena.org</p>	<p>Roula El Masri Gender Equality Programme Coordinator</p>
<p>KAFA 43, Badaro Street, Beydoun Bldg, First Floor, Beirut, Lebanon Tel: 961-1-392220 961-3-101715 / 961-3-018019 Fax: 961-1-392220 Email: kafa@kafa.org.lb</p>	<p>Rima Abi Nader</p>
<p>Amel Association (AA) Location: Beirut, Lebanon National Civil Society Organization Tel: +961 (0)1 317 293 +961 (0)1 317 293 URL: http://amelassociation.com/ Email: info@amel.org.lb, kamelmohanna@amel.org.lb</p>	<p>Marie - Justine Delmas Communication Coordinator</p>
<p>IHR - Institute for Human Rights of the Beirut Bar Association - معهد حقوق الإنسان - نقابة المحامين في بيروت, معهد حقوق الإنسان Me. Elizabeth Zakharia Sioufi - Director Email: indh@inco.com.lb Telephone: (01) 422204/5/7 – (03) 566357 Address: P.O.Box 116-2034 Palais de Justice 1020-2020 Beirut – Lebanon</p>	<p>Elizabeth Zakharia Sioufi – Director</p>
<p>WL - The Women's League - عصبة السيدات Ms. Lamia Kaawar - President Telephone: (01) 803373 Mobile: 03 431534 Address: c/o AUB Information and Public Affairs Department, Bliss St., Beirut</p>	<p>Nabiha Younes, Vice President</p>

Women in Front Joelle Abou Farhat Rizakallah Tel: 01898096 03322180 Email: info@womeninfront.org , joelle@womeninfront.org	Sylvie Nouradiou
Centre for Educational Research and Development CRDP	Eva Ghassibe Responsible of the Department of Sociology Yolla Charaf
Ministry of Social Affairs	Zeina Abdel Khalik Youssef Project Coordinator of "Promoting Women's Participation in Local Governance and Development"
Mabarrat/ Al Kawthar Secondary School	Faten Hassan Teacher

Focus Group 2: Persons with Disabilities (29 July 2013, UNESCO Beirut)

Of the 24 invited organizations (3 governmental and 21 non-governmental), 8 organizations (1 ministry and 7 NGOs) attended.

Organization	Attending Representative
Ministry of Social Affairs	Hyam Sakr
Youth Association of the Blind (YAB) Location: Beirut, Lebanon National Civil Society Organization Tel: 961 1 364259 URL: http://www.yablb.org	Amer Makarem President and Manager
Al Hadi - Al Hadi Institute for Deaf & Blind Children - مؤسسة الهادي للإعاقة السمعية والبصرية وإضطرابات اللغة والتواصل، معهد الإمام الهادي للمكفوفين والصم Mr. Ismail Abdullah El-Zein - Director Website: www.alhadi.org.lb Email: alhadi@mabarrat.org.lb Telephone: (0) 458585 Address: Airport Road	Jalal Karaki
FDA - Friends of Disabled Association - جمعية أصدقاء المعاقين، جمعية أصدقاء المعاقين Dr. Moussa Charaffedine - President Website: www.friendsfordisabled.org.lb	Dr Moussa Charaffedine President

<p>Email: info@friendsfordisabled.org.lb, president@friendsfordisabled.org.lb, director@friendsfordisabled.org.lb Telephone: (05) 601663 Address: Mechref Village, Damour Suburb, Shouf - Lebanon P.O. Box 14/6688 Beirut – Lebanon Website: inclusion-international.org</p>	
<p><u>FOH - Forum of the Handicapped, North Lebanon - منتدى المعاقين في لبنان الشمالي</u> Mr. Nabil Abed - President Email: mountada@terra.net.lb Telephone: (06) 610195 Address: P.O.Box 670 Behind Katan Station Minaa, Tripoli</p>	Hassan Mostafa
<p><u>LCD - Learning center for the deaf</u> Mr. Husein Ismail - President Email: hismail@inco.com.lb, lcd_lebanon@hotmail.com Telephone: (05) 954584 Address: P.O.Box:40-211, Barbara Bldg., Brazilia St., Baabda</p>	Nadine Ismail Head of Early Intervention
<p><u>LWAH - Lebanese Welfare Association for Handicapped - الجمعية اللبنانية لرعاية المعاقين</u> Mrs. Randa Assi Berri - President Website: www.lwah.org.lb Email: lwah@lwah.org.lb Telephone: (01) 374100/1/2 Address: Zokak El-Blat, Batrakiyeh Str., Al Arij Bldg., 1st & 2nd Floors P.O.Box 14-50111,Mazraa 1105-2010 Beirut - Lebanon 1st/2nd floors, Beirut</p>	Zeina Assi Project Manager
<p><u>SOL - Special Olympics Lebanon - جمعية النادي الخاص لرياضة المعاقين</u> Mr. Bechara Merhej - President Website: www.specialolympics.org Email: soliban@hotmail.com Telephone: (01) 662449, 369828 Address: P.O.Box 113-5785, Beirut Mazraa, Dar El-Aytam Street Al-Warde Bldg, 4th floor</p>	Ms Nibal Fetouni Special Olympics MENA Initiatives Director

Focus Group 3: Children and Youth (30 July, 2013, UNESCO Beirut)

Of the 16 invited organizations (3 governmental and 13 non-governmental), 5 organizations (1 ministry and 4 NGOs) attended.

Invited Organization	Attending Participant
MOSA	Nada Kfoury Assistante sociale de la part du ministere des affaires sociaux
MSL - Mouvement Social Libanais - الحركة الإجتماعية Fairuz Saleme Website: www.mouvementsocial.org Email: mouvementsocial@mouvementsocial.org , fsalameh@mouvementsocial.org Telephone: (01) 381879, 383718, 390335 Address: P.O.Box 116-5212 148, Alam St., Badaro Forest Bldg, Beirut	Imane El Ajami
World Youth Alliance Middle East	Cedric Choukeir Regional Director
Lebanese Red Cross- Youth Department	Mohammad Allaw Coordinator of Humanitarian values and principles program
Al Kawthar School	Zahraa Daamouh

Focus Group 4: Migrant Workers and families (30 July 2013, UNESCO Beirut)

Of the 20 invited organizations (3 governmental and 17 non-governmental), 8 organizations (2 ministries and 6 NGOs) attended.

Invited Organization	Attending Participant
IndyACT - The League of Independent Activists - رابطة الناشطين المستقلين Mr. Wael Hmaidan - Executive Director Website: www.indyact.org Email: admin@indyact.org Telephone: (01) 447 192 Address: 4th Floor, Jaara bldg, Nahr Street, Rmeil, Beirut Beirut - Lebanon	Patricia Sfeir Executive Director
PPM - Permanent Peace Movement - حركة السلام الدائم Ms. Jinane Doumit Website: www.ppm-leb.org Email: info@ppm-leb.org , f.abiallam@ppm-lebanon.org (Fadi, ext 807) Telephone: (01) 501516 Address: P.O.Box:166492 Beirut-Lebanon Beirut	Fadi Abi Allam President

KAFA 43, Badaro Street, Beydoun Bldg, First Floor, Beirut, Lebanon Tel: 961-1-392220 961-3-101715 / 961-3-018019 Fax: 961-1-392220	Rola Abimourched Coordinator of the program on migrant domestic workers
Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center <i>Takla Center– facing futuroscope, Charles Helou Boulevard –Sin el Fil</i> E-mail : carimigr@inco.com.lb Website : www.caritasmigrant.org.lb Youtube : caritasmigrant Phones : 01-502550/1/2/3/4 administration ext: 0 Fax : 01-502550 ext: 7	Catherine Al Hachem Hessen Sayah, Project officer
Insan Association Telefax: 961 1 333091 e-mail: insan@insanlb.org , larabian@insanlb.org Address: Adib Ishak st, Maalouf blg, 7 th floor, Achrafieh, Beirut, Lebanon	Jihane Howayek
Frontiers Association	Berna Habib
MOSA	Jocelyn Kaloush
Ministry of Labour	Marline Atallah
Ministry of Justice	Ahmed Ayoubi Mobile: 9613707136

e) List of Stakeholders consulted for the validation ¹⁶of the draft report

The current stakeholders' list was prepared to cover the national stakeholders from Government and non-government institutions, media and academia together with UN agencies, who are active in promoting social inclusiveness in different policy sectors. To our initial invitation, most of them have shown interests, collaborated and contributed to the participatory policy assessment, depending on the availability, by receiving the consultant researcher to provide information and data, by participating in focus group meetings and by commenting the draft final report, which was circulated. The below list of stakeholders participated in the online review of the final draft report in September 2013.

¹⁶ The final draft report was circulated among all stakeholders who participated and were invited to the focus group meetings, research/consultation meetings for the policy review process, from 2-9 September 2013.

Government Institutions (9)

1.	Ministry of Culture
2.	Ministry of Information
3.	Ministry of Education
4.	Ministry of Social Affairs
5.	OMSAR
6.	UNESCO National Commission
7.	Centre for Educational Research and Development (CERD)
8.	National Council for Scientific Research
9.	Lebanese National Consultative Committee for Ethics (LNCCE)

NGOs (72)

10.	ABAAD (Dimensions)-Resource Center for Gender Equality (ABAAD) - Beirut
11.	KAFA - Beirut
12.	Amel Association (AA) - Beirut
13.	Hariri Foundation For Sustainable Human Development (HF-SHD) - Beirut
14.	Lebanese Democratic Women's Gathering (RDFL)- Beirut
15.	Nasawiya - Beirut
16.	The Lebanese Council to Resist Violence Against Woman (LECORVAW)Location - Beirut
17.	CRTD.A - Collective for Research & Training on Development - Action - مركز الدراسات والتدريب والتطوير - Beirut
18.	IHR - Institute for Human Rights of the Beirut Bar Association - نقابة المحامين في بيروت، معهد حقوق الانسان - Beirut
19.	WIT - Women in IT - التجمّع النسائي لتكنولوجيا المعلومات - Beirut.
20.	WL - The Women's League - عصبة السيدات - Beirut
21.	LLWR - League of Lebanese Woman's Rights - لجنة حقوق المرأة اللبنانية - Beirut
22.	Lebanese League for Women in Business - Beirut
23.	Women in Front - Beirut
24.	National Commission for Lebanese Women - Beirut
25.	Mabarrat/ Al Kawthar Secondary School - Beirut
26.	Arcenciel (AEC) - Matn
27.	Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union (LPHU)- Beirut
28.	Youth Association of the Blind (YAB) - Beirut
29.	Al Hadi - Al Hadi Institute for Deaf & Blind Children - مؤسسة الهادي للإعاقة السمعية والبصرية - Beirut - وإضطرابات اللغة والتواصل، معهد الإمام الهادي للمكفوفين والصم
30.	AL-AMAL - Al- Amal Institute for the Disabled - مؤسسة الأمل للمعوقين - Broumana
31.	AY - Al-Younbough - Kesserwan
32.	FDA - Friends of Disabled Association - جمعية أصدقاء المعاقين، جمعية أصدقاء المعاقين - Shouf
33.	FOH - Forum of the Handicapped, North Lebanon - منتدى المعاقين في لبنان الشمالي - Tripoli
34.	HRD - Human Rights With No Discrimination - جمعية حقوق الإنسان بلا تمييز - Beirut
35.	IHR - Institute for Human Rights of the Beirut Bar Association - نقابة المحامين في بيروت، معهد حقوق الانسان - Beirut
36.	KF - Al-Kafaat Foundation - مؤسسة الكفاءات - Beirut

37.	LCD - Learning center for the deaf - Baabda
38.	LCDP - Lebanese Council of Disabled People - اتحاد جمعيات المعاقين اللبنانيين - Beirut
39.	LIB - Lebanese Institution for the Blind - المؤسسة اللبنانية للمكفوفين - Beirut
40.	LSBD - Lebanese Society for Blind and Deaf - المدرسة اللبنانية للضريير والصم - Baabda
41.	LWAH - Lebanese Welfare Association for Handicapped - الجمعية اللبنانية لرعاية المعاقين - Beirut
42.	SOL - Special Olympics Lebanon - جمعية النادي الخاص لرياضة المعاقين - Beirut
43.	LSBD-Lebanese School for the Blind and the Deaf- Baabda
44.	OJ - Offre Joie - فرح العطاء - Beirut
45.	AFDC - Association for Forest Development & Conservation - جمعية حماية الثروة الحرجية والتنمية - Metn
46.	AS - Aie Serve - أي سيرف - Beirut
47.	Learning to Care - Beirut
48.	DPNA - Development for People and Nature Assoc. - Saida
49.	MSL - Mouvement Social Libanais - الحركة الإجتماعية - Beirut
50.	YMCA - Beirut
51.	Beyond Association (BA) - Beirut
52.	Injaz - Beirut
53.	World Youth Alliance Middle East - Beirut
54.	Lebanese Red Cross- Youth Department - Beirut
55.	Youth Economic Forum - Beirut
56.	Al Kawthar School - Beirut
57.	<u>ADDL - Association pour la Defense des Droits et des Libertes - جمعية الدفاع عن الحقوق والحريات جمعية - Beirut</u> <u>الدفاع عن الحقوق والحريات</u>
58.	IndyACT - The League of Independent Activists - رابطة الناشطين المستقلين - Beirut
59.	PPM - Permanent Peace Movement - حركة السلام الدائم - Beirut
60.	KAFA - Beirut
61.	Amel Association (AA) - Beirut
62.	Centre Libanais des Droits Humains / Lebanese Center for Human Rights - Beirut
63.	Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center - Beirut
64.	Insan Association - Beirut
65.	Migrant Workers Task Force (MWTF) - Beirut
66.	GUPW - The General Union of Palestinian Woman - الإتحاد العام للمرأة الفلسطينية - Ain El-Helweh Camp Saida
67.	DPWO - Democratic Palestinian Woman Organization - Beirut
68.	Frontiers Association - Beirut
69.	Samir Kassir Foundation - Beirut
70.	Arab Image Foundation (AIF) - Beirut
71.	<u>AFEJ - Association des Francophone de Journalisme - جمعية خريجي الدراسات العليا في الصحافة - Beirut</u>
72.	<u>FF - Fares Foundation - مؤسسة فارس - Keserwan</u>
73.	Maharat Foundation - Beirut
74.	Online News-Lebanonfiles, Beirut
75.	Media Safety - Beirut
76.	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung - Beirut
77.	Diakonia - Beirut
78.	Save the Children- Beirut
79.	Regional Office for MENA- Amnesty International- Beirut
80.	Family Care International - Beirut
81.	Nouveaux droits de l'homme - international (mission au Liban) - Beirut

Media (23)

82.	Ad Diyar Newspaper
83.	Al Akhbar Newspaper
84.	Al Balad Newspaper
85.	Al Liwaa Newspaper
86.	Al Mustaqbal Newspaper
87.	An-Nahar Newspaper
88.	As Safir Newspaper
89.	L'orient le Jour Newspaper
90.	The Daily Star Newspaper
91.	Al-Hayat Newspaper
92.	Lebanonfiles online news
93.	Now Lebanon online news
94.	ILoubnan
95.	Tele Liban
96.	Future TV
97.	LBC International TV
98.	Future News TV
99.	MTV
100.	New Television (NTV)
101.	OTV
102.	National News Agency
103.	Sawt Lebnen Elhor - Radio
104.	Radio Orient

Academia (4)

#	University
105.	Lebanese University Information Department - Beirut
106.	Yasmine Dabbous, LAU - Beirut
107.	Rania Baroud, Antonin - Beirut
108.	Georges Sadaka, LU - Beirut

UN Organizations (2)

#	Organization
109.	ILO
110.	ESCWA