



*DELEGATION PERMANENTE DU LIBAN
AUPRES DE L'UNESCO*

Intervention by Permanent Delegate of Lebanon HE Ambassador Sahar Baassiri at the Executive Board 210th session as an observer

Mr. Chairperson,

Mr. President of the General Conference

Mme. Director General

Excellencies,

It's an opportunity for me today to say few words of thanks and appreciation to UNESCO and Member States for the remarkable support they have been showing to my country, Lebanon, and the Lebanese people since the devastating Beirut blast

I cannot but commend Mrs. Azoulay's leadership in UNESCO's rapid response to our crisis especially in coordinating international efforts in education, heritage, and culture, in visiting Beirut and launching her initiative "LiBeirut":

Now Schools are being rebuilt, heritage buildings are being saved, projects for boosting the creative sector are being discussed and more mid-term and long-term plans are being drafted.

But beyond the thanks and appreciation, there is something new about UNESCO's role that makes it more visible and more influential:

From Mosul to Beirut, UNESCO showed the ability and agility to act in emergencies, to be on the ground and to mobilize all its sectors and partners from different fields.

This is a new approach that puts culture and education at the heart of recovery and reconstruction from the first moment, with the aim of supporting the resilience of the people. An approach that is worth more discussion, elaboration, and strengthening.

And we hope that Mrs. Azoulay will still be with us in the coming years to follow on “LiBeirut’ projects and continue leading this new approach.

It is also an opportunity to thank each and every country of the 56 that, have so far co-sponsored our draft resolution under item 44 of the agenda: “LiBeirut: RESTORING THE CITY OF BEIRUT THROUGH CULTURE AND EDUCATION”, and the many other countries that have supported.

Dear Colleagues,

the song “LiBeirut” that gave its name to the initiative starts by this verse:

A greeting from my heart to Beirut

And I can only end by saying

A greeting from the heart of Beirut to you all.

Thank you