



Republic of Lebanon
Municipal Council of Beirut City

STATEMENT

The newly elected Municipal Council of Beirut City (10 month) is aware of the importance of reducing the disaster risk and increasing city resilience, especially that Beirut City is an urban district located in an earthquake prone-area (50 km of the seismically active Dead SEA Transform Fault), and highly vulnerable to earthquake & flood risk, the fact that exposes the city to hazards in terms of people & infrastructure.

Though several measures that would help enhancing Beirut City readiness in facing disaster risk are beyond the municipality framework and responsibility (e.g. maintaining critical infrastructure, education program, response & reconstruction, etc...), a high level action plan is set by the City Council to promote the relevance & importance of adopting a systematic approach to reduce Disaster risk. The plan will mainly focus on:

- 1) Allocate in year 2012 the necessary budget to address the requirements of integrating risk reduction into the development process (i.e. mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into the municipal policy structure),
- 2) Initiate a database on risks and hazards that Beirut city has /will encounter.
- 3) Initiate a pilot project for the safety of public schools (in coordination with the related ministry)
- 4) Establish the “Urban Planning” Municipal Committee to strengthen the urban governance & promote the adequate urban planning, hence boosting the resilience of the city.

However, to enable address the challenges of implementing the disaster risk reduction program, both technical & financial support along with the involvement of the civil society and national government are needed. Otherwise, we may raise concerns that disaster risk reduction may not be considered among the municipality’s priorities, hence run the risk of elevating the magnitude of emergencies instead of minimizing it.

Last but not least, we would like to thank UNISDR for this opportunity to make Beirut a safer city.