



**A NEW
VISION
FOR THE
REPUBLIC**





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TRACY CHAMOUN

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I come to you today because as a nation we are at a major crossroad in our history.

We have all been victims of a political class that has made our problems worse by missing every opportunity to provide solutions to the country's present crisis, because of their infighting and narrow political agendas.

“The politicians have been deaf and blind to the Lebanese people's suffering, and this must end”.

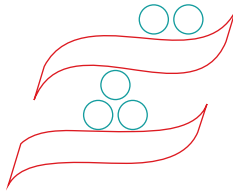


After the explosion that rocked the Port of Beirut, the 3rd largest non-nuclear explosion in the world, I came back to Lebanon during the worst economic crash to place my fate alongside my fellow countrymen and women because, from the start, I was taught in my family to always put Lebanon first.

Since then, I have lived every hardship and emotion with you. I have shared your anger, injustice, powerlessness, frustration, anxiety and despair. But I have also shared your constant hope that the situation will turn around and that we will find a way out of this collective nightmare.

“Two years ago, after the terrible criminal explosion at the Port of Beirut, I took a stand and I said: Enough is enough!”



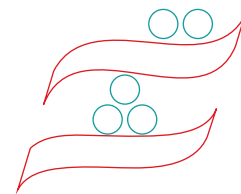


“Serving one’s country is something that was passed down to me by my grandfather, former President Camille Chamoun...”





“...and by my father Dany Chamoun, who taught me the ultimate example of loving one’s country by dying as a martyr for this nation.”



Therefore, it is from my lifelong experience of dealing with Lebanon's historical tribulations, my exposure to the complexity of its political fabric, and because of my personal commitment to the modernization of our country, and driven by my desire to bring back prosperity, sovereignty, and dignity to all Lebanese, that I stand before you and God, with humility, to declare my readiness to serve Lebanon and to present my candidacy for the election of the **President of the Republic of Lebanon.**

“The President of The Republic’s job is to safeguard the entirety of the population, and to enshrine the plurality and diversity of the nation.”



VALUES AND COMPASSION

“What we need to do is to improve our internal environment.”

“We must restore the values of honesty, decency, tolerance, and mutual respect for our country to succeed.”

There are always lessons to be learned from any ordeal, and this calamitous situation in which we all find ourselves has shown us that we share the same concerns whatever our religion or our position in society.

We all have the right to education, medicines and healthcare, electricity, fuel, proper waste management, fresh water, stability and security and more importantly, to have faith in the future of our country; so we can continue to live in Lebanon and raise our children and grandchildren here.





HOW TO REGAIN LEBANON

“After the war, many of the individuals who took the reins of power used their positions to weaken the state, and transformed a portion of the Lebanese people into followers.”

“I think of myself, as a patriotic Lebanese woman and as such, I will represent all Lebanese equally.”

Until now, everyone has been looking for solutions to the present crisis by focusing on the external environment.

The first step is to reprioritize our national identity and to think of ourselves as Lebanese.

We must all become the solution and this means having a positive attitude towards each other more often.

The country cannot function with a vindictive type of leadership. We must all be open to dialogue.

AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY

“We can no longer relativize justice”

“We must regain our sense of right and wrong.”

“To be in a position of power means to take the reins of responsibility.”

The Lebanese must restore their belief in the rule of law and a just and independent judiciary system.

Therefore, the priority is to ensure that the Judiciary Branch of Government benefits from a law that specifically guarantees the “immovability” of judges in order to prevent them from being at the mercy of their hierarchical superiors or political influences that can transfer them to other postings. In addition, though there will always be political nominations on the Higher State Councils. We must reverse the order of things so that the number of judges elected by their peers is greater than the number of judges nominated.



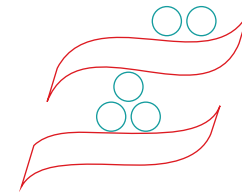


AUGUST 4, A NATIONAL DAY

“I would like to add an official Day of Remembrance on August 4th to our national calendar.”

This day will serve to remind us of the tragedy that occurred in 2020, to pray for the victims and the survivors who lost their families, their homes, and their businesses on that horrific day.

Everyone must be equal under the law, including all elected and appointed public service officials, so everyone can be held accountable for their actions, and we do not fall victim again to the neglect and corruption that destroyed us and our capital.



ONE SOVEREIGN ARMY

“The declaration of war and peace must reside with the Lebanese State only, and be exercised exclusively by the legitimate chain of command.”

“The idea of sorting out our differences through military means is not acceptable as it will only serve to destroy the country further.”

Today we are confronting conditions where all our policies are being influenced by external agendas and this situation is costing Lebanon greatly in maintaining its international credibility.

If we want Lebanon to regain its respectability towards its population and in the world, there should only be one legitimate army on Lebanese soil.

We need to have a Defense Strategy that will set out the rules of military engagement and the policies that concern the safety and prosperity of the nation. Most importantly, Lebanon must have a unified and coherent foreign policy.



MARITIME AND LAND BORDER DEMARCATATIONS

“I will never forfeit our sovereign wealth nor our territorial integrity.”

“I will be committed to ending the illegal trade and smuggling which drains away our national wealth.”

I will work with our neighbors, either directly or indirectly, with honest and neutral delegates, on implementing our sovereign rights in the delimitation of all our land and maritime borders.

I will work at the level of the United Nations to ratify the completed proposed land borders that have been submitted by the Lebanese Armed Forces in order to finalize our legitimate frontiers with our neighbors.





INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Lebanon is a country of openness, trade and exchange, and we must cultivate good relations with every country.

My priority will be to restore good relations with all our Arab family and to rebuild the trust and confidence between our nations.

The Syrian and Lebanese people are geographically and economically connected. Therefore, our relationship with Syria must be built on mutual respect for each country's sovereignty. This will be the first step towards establishing joint efforts to stop illegal trade, drug trafficking, and to control all the shared border crossings in compliance with international conventions.

HUMANITARIAN SOLUTIONS

“We have to find humanitarian solutions to the question of the displaced and the refugees remaining in Lebanon.”

THE SYRIAN DISPLACED

I will work in good faith with all parties including Syria, the international community and the UNHCR to make the safe return of the displaced Syrian population, as expeditious as possible, and a national priority. Lebanon has taken in more than one million Syrian refugees, in a country without an effective government that hasn't managed to address the refugees issue seriously.

One of the measures to be taken is to reverse the decree issued in 2015 by the Lebanese Government which forced UNHCR to stop registering the number of Syrians and has prevented Lebanon from knowing exactly how many Syrians are living here.

We must exchange data efficiently and consistently with the UNHCR about the Syrians that are entering and exiting the country at this time to determine their eligibility for aid more accurately.

In the meantime, we should require of the donor nations to increase their support to Lebanon with regard to local development projects so that the regions which are housing the displaced Syrians can benefit from this additional aid during these hard times.





THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

I will strive to find humanitarian solutions to the matter of the Palestinian refugees remaining in Lebanon, as their situation has gone unattended for decades and has left a very negative impact on them and on the security of our nation.

In addition, it is not acceptable that these camps have become inaccessible to the Lebanese Armed Forces, as they must be able to exercise their function over the whole Lebanese territory.



THE CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNANCE

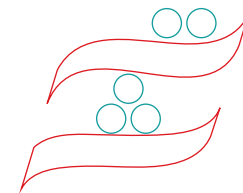
“We cannot go for months without a Government, or President.”

“We cannot accept the unconstitutional extension of Parliament.”

Regarding the internal files, we need to review some of the more problematic sections of the Lebanese Constitution that have paralyzed governance in the past.

The misinterpretation of the Constitution has led to long periods of vacuum.

I will seek legal and constitutional remedies to these oversights.



THE NEW ECONOMIC MODEL A PRODUCTIVE ECONOMY

“Lebanon needs a new economic paradigm.”

“Our economy will thrive only when we will achieve a stable internal political environment.”

I would like to share my vision for the revival of our country, and this, with the full intent of cooperating with the next Prime Minister and the Cabinet, to undertake a new 5-year economic trajectory for the nation.

Fiscal measures and the implementation of tax reforms, alone, are not sufficient if we are to rebuild our free economy. This must be done from the bottom up, by creating sustainable and strong growth that generates job opportunities in many sectors.





Since Lebanon is a small country, I believe that the economic recovery can be relatively rapid if we identify high-end niche markets where Lebanon can provide competitive added-value to the world.

I see Lebanon as a Five-Star Nation, which offers excellence in diverse sectors such as organic agriculture, eco and religious tourism, hospitality services, state-of-the-art technology, light industries and much more.

From the economy's standpoint, the first essential step will be to have a modern performance-based and multi-year budget (up to 3 years), that can be modified on a yearly basis, to allow for revisions. This will provide long range projections to foster inclusive growth and sustainable development.

It goes without saying that we need to restructure our banking sector, and become eligible for IMF funding which must be handled with complete transparency. This will include restructuring the public debt to protect our sovereign wealth.

With a recovering economy, we will be able to attract foreign investments, but not before approving the laws that will guarantee full public disclosure for this process and transparency every step of the way.

“We need to give people options and opportunities to regain their purchasing power by fueling a productive economy.”



THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

The international community has made it clear that funds will no longer be provided to Lebanon if we do not implement serious reforms and achieve results in our anti-corruption initiatives.

Having passed the law to create the National Anti-Corruption Commission we need to launch the Commission as quickly as possible, in conjunction with the proposed reforms for the independence of the judiciary.





A DIGITAL GOVERNMENT

The switch to a Digital Government will be an essential tool in the battle against public sector corruption. This will give citizens equal access to public services, and make these more affordable. In the process, this will reduce the influence of the culture of patronage and clientelism.

DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Decentralization is already in our Constitution and there are many proposals in circulation. The different projects across the decentralization spectrum must be reviewed in detail and presented in order to determine the best possible future outcome for long term stability and prosperity for the nation.

Decentralization will allow for local sustainable economic growth to flourish throughout the country making local government more responsive to the people's needs and closer to the citizens.

ENERGY SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

A RELIABLE ELECTRICAL GRID

The modernization of the economy will need a reliable electrical grid above all, and in the electricity sector we need to increase efficiency by converting most of our power stations to gas.

We need to improve the distribution, billing and collection through optimization and efficiency, to reduce the present production loss of around 50% on the grid.

We need to provide oversight and accountability by finalizing the appointment of professionals to the National Electricity Regulatory Authority, and it is recommended that the model used for the appointment of these regulators be taken from the one that was used for the Commission against Impunity Corruption.



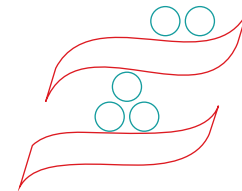


A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR OIL AND GAS

We need to be self-sufficient in the oil and gas sector, but we also need to develop an economic strategy for this resource to make it commercially viable over a longer period of time.

We must begin, as soon as possible, the exploration and extraction of many of the blocks in areas not in dispute, by inviting more companies to join the tendering process.

We need to ensure that companies who presently have concessions move ahead with their drilling and exploration plans.





THE TRANSITION TO ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

As the world moves away from fossil fuels, over the next 10 years we need to shift to 50% of renewable energy by 2030, and we should consider to offer tax breaks and incentives so that companies can innovate with new sources of power including solar, hydrogen, wind and water.

PRIORITIZING WATER

Water must be considered as a strategic natural resource. Therefore, I advocate the creation of a separate Ministry of Water to manage this vital resource. The ministry would also ensure that only environmental dams are constructed in a way not to damage the surrounding natural habitats and environment.

We need to develop more hydro-electric power plants. In the 1970's, 70% of our electricity was produced from hydro-stations. This has presently dropped to unacceptable levels. We need to increase the production of hydro-electricity from this abundant source of energy.

WASTE TO ENERGY SOLUTIONS

“Our cities and villages have becomes dump sites for garbage.”

The Waste Management problem has become a nightmare because for political reasons there has never been a will to implement a national strategy.

We have a small land mass. Therefore, we must address the problem of waste management with a strategy that incoporates recycling at the source and provides Waste to Energy solutions.



A NATIONAL SOCIAL PLAN FOR THE ELDERLY, THE YOUNG AND THE SICK

We need to restore the funds for social security for people of retirement age who have recently lost all their life savings because of the financial collapse.

As for the young, we must focus on reviving the education sector by restoring Lebanon's world class educational prestige at all levels. We must create job opportunities for students after graduation.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM

Compensation for Public Service Employees needs to be part of the next Government's revitalization plan which should include the restructuring of this sector. With a new budget in hand, we will be able to pay employees in the public sector better, including all the armed services personnel, and compensate for the collapse of the currency, the soaring inflation and the present lack of purchasing power.



THE HEALTHCARE SECTORS

The Healthcare sectors, both public and private, have been hit very badly and this includes overall access to medication and medical services. These need to be supported and brought back to full operational capacity, including settling the internal debt between the hospitals and the state.

We have recently lost a large number of medical professionals, including doctors and nurses, who could no longer afford to work and live under the present conditions in Lebanon.

“If we follow the program of bringing back prosperity to every sector, this will restore confidence in the country, and we will attract all the professionals back to Lebanon to continue to offer the standards of excellence for which we were known.”





GENDER EQUALITY

One of the most important changes that Lebanon needs to embody is the issue of the role and rights of women in our society. We must reach equality between women and men. This means that they should have full equal opportunities, equal pay and equal rights.

Going forwards, women and men will jointly share the responsibility and the effort to rebuild the state and make this country prosperous again.

**“I believe that
if we place our national
interest above all other
concerns and if we start
to value fairness and treat
people with respect,
we can bring back pride
and hope in the future
of our country.”**

*I have provided only a “Glimpse”
of our possible prosperous future together.*

I pray this is just the beginning...





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