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President,

New Zealand **welcomes** Lebanon’s participation in this process.

We **acknowledge** the devastating impacts that the Beirut explosion, the Covid-19 pandemic and the significant economic downturn have had on Lebanon this year.

New Zealand **notes** positively that Lebanon has not carried out executions since 2004. We **recommend** that Lebanon takes steps towards complete abolition of the death penalty, including through establishing a moratorium on executions and by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

New Zealand further **recommends** that Lebanon fully respects, protects and fulfils the right to freedom of expression and association, and takes action to protect journalists and activists, and to fully enable non-governmental organisations and civil society to conduct their activities freely and safely.

New Zealand **acknowledges** and **appreciates** the challenges that Lebanon faces in hosting a significant number of refugees, and **recommends** that Lebanon allow refugees legal residence and freedom of movement.

Finally, New Zealand **recommends** that Lebanon ratify and implement the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Thank you, President.