

Paris CEDRE and beyond: Focusing the debate on Lebanon's structural reforms

March 23, 2018

Beirut, LB CEDRE (the French acronym for Conference for Development and Reform with Businesses), a major economic event to Lebanon will be held on April 6 in Paris at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron. It will be preceded on March 26 by a preparatory meeting in the French capital.

The Lebanese Government has prepared a major infrastructure program, the Capital Investment Plan (CIP), with some 250 projects at a total cost of \$22 billion over twelve years. Only the first two phases of the CIP will be presented in Paris, for a total amount of \$16 billion with an emphasis on transportation (30%), electricity (20%) and water (30%).

The goal of CEDRE is to examine the CIP in view of funding a large part of it, but also examine the Lebanese Government's economic vision and the planned reform program necessary to ensure the viability of the CIP. Funding will mainly be provided through the World Bank's Concessional Financing Facility and a similar scheme in the European Union.

While the International Monetary Fund ([IMF](#)) (among others) is sounding the alarm about the sustainability of the Lebanese economic and financial model, we believe CEDRE should be an opportunity to engage a national debate on economic policy options and notably on the way to move from a logic of stabilization to a logic of sustainable and inclusive economic development.

Kulluna Irada is taking the initiative of bringing together a series of policymakers, economic experts, and representative of the private sector, the media, the political parties and the donors in a roundtable discussion on 23 March 2018 entitled PARIS, CEDRE & BEYOND: Focusing the debate on Lebanon's structural reforms.

The discussion includes 3 axes:

- From Paris III to CEDRE: What has changed?
- Stabilization imperative: How to succeed at CEDRE?
- Beyond CEDRE, towards a sustainable economic reform path

The seminar concludes with recommendations that will be submitted to the preparatory meeting of the Cedar Conference in Paris.

We believe it is only through a participatory approach to policy formulation and debate that Lebanon can succeed in forging ahead more effective economic policy choices.

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Kulluna Irada is a civic organization for political reform, engaged in setting the foundations for a modern, secure, efficient, sustainable and just state. It is funded exclusively by Lebanese citizens in Lebanon and abroad. Kulluna Irada believes transparency, accountability and citizen participation as major constituents of good governance. The organization's goal is to raise awareness on public issues and engage constituencies of the Lebanese society: citizens, NGOs, experts, municipalities, and members of Parliament and Government in order to find and implement sustainable solutions. Kulluna Irada's internal governance is based on collegial decision making and strict rules on conflict of interest: board members have vowed not to run for elections or participate in any public auction.

For more information

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