

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, excellences, dear partners, distinguished speakers, dear guests, colleagues and friends of Konrad/Adenauer/Stiftung and Maison Du futur.

It is my great pleasure to join his excellency **President Amine Gemayel** and welcome you to today's event that will tackle an issue that some might consider symptomatic for the challenges and problems the country is being faced with and that is the forensic audit of the Central Bank's accounts by the international accounting firm Alvarez and Marsal.

It is KAS mission and vision as an independent non-profit German political foundation further international dialogue and cooperation

One of the main objectives that KAS works on with our **partners from civil society, politics the private sector and academia** to further and support **political reforms**, worldwide and strengthen **good governance**

Political **accountability and transparency** are essential for good governance **and rule of law** and are also **preconditions for** sustainable economic and social development

From my point of view the topic of today's event is of particular importance for our work in Lebanon in this regard.

Lebanon, the Lebanese and the Lebanese economy is going through very difficult times and faces an unprecedented crisis with many facets.

In order to overcome this crisis there is an urgent **need to get one's house** in order; calls for reforms are loud and omnipresent; **auditing the financial practices is definitely a central task in this context.**

It is central because the Lebanese deserve to know about the and the handling of the Central bank's finances

And it is also central because the international community made this a precondition for any financial support – with the exception of humanitarian aid - to Lebanon to recover from the crisis.

Everything but a small task

details of the contract are not really promising

Past experiences have shown that there is not willingness to allow for a proper audit

News on current audit seems to confirm this.

Forensic audit deserves our attention

I am very pleased and grateful that we have been able to gather a number of experts today to share with us their views and assessment on the proceeding related to the forensic audit and **critically evaluate what could and should be done**

Moreover, to discuss a new model and a **new approach for the Lebanese economic and financial model.**