

Dear President Amine Gemayel,  
Dear speakers, partners, guests and friends  
Dear ladies and gentlemen

In the name of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, it is my great pleasure to be with you today in the annual conference “Rethinking Lebanon” organized by our partner Maison du Futur and in collaboration with “Institute of Research and Studies for Mediterranean Middle East” and the Municipality of Bikfaya.

Lebanon is going through unprecedented times with a political crisis as well as an economic and financial collapse, which is even worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic and the Beirut Port Blast. Therefore, a discussion on how to rebuild the state is essential.

KAS through its country office contributes to the debates on how to facilitate further to the political, economic, and social development in Lebanon. To achieve this, KAS works together with multitude of local partner organizations among these is the Maison du Futur.

Since its relaunch, Maison du Futur has become one of our closest partners and we worked together on different topics aiming to promote the principles of democracy and pluralism, to support dialogue, conflict prevention and peaceful coexistence and to offer a forum for the discussion of important economic and social topics.

The topic of today’s event covers central aspects of our work in Lebanon and I feel it is also of utter importance to the country nowadays.

Together with our distinguished speakers and participants we hope to contribute to this debate, to promote initiatives and ideas to addressing, mitigating and resolving problems related to the Lebanese economic system, political sectarianism, the effects of regional tensions and foreign interferences.

We are very pleased to be part of this conference. We would like to extend our gratitude to all the speakers and participants joining us today and we are looking forward to our discussion.

Thank you.