

Michaël Bauer Intervention

"Overcoming Divisions: A Conference for Lebanon's Future":

Maison du Futur, Bickfaya May 14, 2025

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Your Excellency President Amine Gemayel,
Excellencies,
Minister Adel Nassar,
Members of Parliament,

Distinguished guests, dear colleagues, dear partners, dear friends of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation.

It is an honor to welcome you today to this important conference, held in partnership between Maison du Futur and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Lebanon office. We gather here under the title *"Overcoming Divisions: A Conference for Lebanon's Future"*, with a clear and urgent purpose:

- to confront the enduring divides that challenge Lebanon's cohesion, and
- to contribute to a national conversation that places dialogue, understanding, and shared responsibility at its center.

Lebanon is at a critical crossroads. The Taëf Agreement offered – and still does offer - a roadmap for coexistence, yet many of its promises remain unfulfilled.

Over the past months, considerable political progress has been achieved, yet, uncertainty and social fragmentation remain. In a country still struggling with security and instability, the need for constructive national dialogue has become not only timely but vital.

This is why the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung considers dialogue a cornerstone of its mission in Lebanon.

For us, dialogue is not merely an exchange of opinions. It is a method of rebuilding trust across communities, of bridging historical narratives, and of forging a collective vision for a peaceful and sovereign Lebanon.

We believe that platforms like this conference are essential spaces where

- ideas can be contested respectfully,
- grievances can be heard, and
- common ground can be found.

Over the course of this day, we will reflect on the past (but we will not be stuck in the past), examine tools for non-violent conflict resolution, and explore pathways to strengthen Lebanon's national resilience.

These discussions are not theoretical—they are deeply practical and deeply political. They challenge us to imagine a Lebanon in which difference is no longer a threat but a source of strength.

I would like to thank all the speakers and moderators and all of you in the audience for joining us today, and in particular our partners at Maison du Futur under the leadership of President Amine Gemayel and my colleagues of the KAS Lebanon team for their enduring commitment to dialogue and reform.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us engage in today's discussions with openness, humility, and a shared commitment to Lebanon's future.

Thank you