

Speech by President Amine Gemayel
“Overcoming Divisions: A Conference for Lebanon’s Future.”
Maison du Futur, Bickfaya May 14, 2025
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**Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests,
Dear Friends,**

Welcome to the Maison du Futur.

It is with renewed hope that I declare open our conference entitled:
“Overcoming Divisions: A Conference for Lebanon’s Future.”

Your presence today — a reflection of our diverse horizons — is truly valuable. It embodies a shared will: to build a Lebanon reconciled with itself, capable of healing its wounds and embracing a future of peace.

This conference is part of the fiftieth anniversary of the Maison du Futur. It marks the beginning of a series of events we will hold throughout 2025 to reflect, together, on the major challenges facing our country and our region.

The title of our conference is not a mere slogan — it is a necessity. Overcoming divisions is the condition for Lebanon’s survival as a united, sovereign, and viable nation.

Since the Taif Agreement, despite moments of respite and hope, the same vulnerabilities persist: sectarianism, mutual distrust, foreign interference, and the absence of a shared national vision.

This conference aims to shed light on these challenges through three complementary sessions:

- First, **how our collective memories shape our national identity**, and why it is essential to reconcile our divergent narratives;
- Then, **how to develop non-violent solutions to our internal conflicts**, based on justice and dialogue;
- Finally, **how to strengthen our national resilience** against external pressures, by reclaiming our decision-making autonomy.

We do not claim to resolve all of Lebanon’s great challenges today. But we hope to rekindle a commitment to **dialogue, peace, truth, and shared responsibility**.

The Maison du Futur has never been merely a think tank. It aspires to be a space of conscience — a place where ideas are welcomed, debated, and carried forward by hope.

I extend my gratitude to our steadfast partner, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and in particular to the Director of the Lebanon office, Mr. Michael Bauer. I also thank our moderators, our speakers, and all those participating in this conference..

May this day mark the beginning of a bolder journey toward a united Lebanon.

I now give the floor to Mr. Michael Bauer.