

President Amine Gemayel's Address

Fifty Years of Reflection... and a Future to Build

Maison du Futur, Bickfaya

Friday, 5 December 2025

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

It is with great joy, and with deep emotion, that I open this conference entitled “Fifty Years of Reflection... and a Future to Build.” This theme is not a mere slogan; it reflects the spirit that has guided the Maison du Futur since its creation, through the most difficult periods as well as the most promising moments of hope.

For fifty years, this institution has weathered war, political, economic and social crises, and the various phases of reconstruction that have shaped our recent history. Throughout all these challenges, it has upheld one essential conviction: that Lebanon, whatever the trials it faces, must continue to think about its future. To think about the future means to confront reality with lucidity, in order to open a path toward confidence and hope.

I would first like to express my warmest thanks to our speakers, both Lebanese and international, for their presence. Their participation reflects the intellectual influence of the Maison du Futur and the enduring interest that major Lebanese issues continue to generate, both regionally and internationally.

I also wish to express my deep gratitude to our loyal partner, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, whose constant support has been crucial to our initiatives. I would like to warmly acknowledge Ms.

Christina Baade, Director of KAS in Lebanon, whose commitment and professionalism have strengthened a precious partnership for the Maison du Futur.

The theme that brings us together today invites us to look in two directions: toward the past, to draw lessons from it, and toward the future, to fully assume our responsibilities.

Over half a century, we have learned that a country can only progress on the basis of strong institutions, responsible governance, and ethical commitment from public and private actors alike. We have also understood that corruption, administrative dysfunction, and the absence of transparency are never inevitable—they are obstacles that a clear political will can overcome.

Corruption has unfortunately taken root and weakened our institutions. The successive crises in our region—whether Palestinian, Syrian, Israeli, or Iranian—have only intensified vulnerabilities that were already profound. We cannot wait for these conflicts to be resolved in order to act. It is up to us, starting today, to undertake an internal process of renewal founded on sound, transparent, and accountable governance. Only then can we strengthen Lebanon's resilience and protect its future.

Our country lacks neither talent nor competence. What it needs is an institutional framework that values integrity, encourages innovation, and supports social justice.

This conference is not intended as a nostalgic assessment. Its ambition is to open a space for ideas, reflection, and proposals for the years ahead. It is in this spirit that we have asked each of our speakers to formulate one key recommendation drawn from their

experience and expertise. These proposals will be discussed, enriched, and integrated into a Policy Paper that the Maison du Futur, in partnership with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, will publish following this gathering. This document will serve as a solid foundation for continuing reflection and inspiring concrete initiatives.

Dear friends,

Lebanon finds itself today at a historic crossroads. In the face of the multidimensional crises we are experiencing, two attitudes are possible: resignation or responsibility. Here at the Maison du Futur, we have chosen responsibility—to think, to propose, to bring people together, and to build.

Thank you for your loyal presence.

I wish our discussions every success, and I now declare open our conference:

“Fifty Years of Reflection... and a Future to Build.”

Thank you.