

**Joint Statement of the International Support Group (ISG) for Lebanon following their meeting with President Michel Aoun**

Beirut, Lebanon  
10 November 2017

Members of the International Support Group for Lebanon met this morning with President Michel Aoun at the Presidential Palace in Baabda. They discussed the situation in Lebanon following the announcement of the offer of resignation of Prime Minister Saad Hariri.

ISG members expressed their continuing concern regarding the situation and prevailing uncertainty in Lebanon. They appealed for Lebanon to continue to be shielded from tensions in the region. In this regard, they stressed the importance of restoring the vital balance of Lebanon's State institutions, essential to Lebanon's stability. Noting the positive political achievements of the past year, ISG members urge all sides to continue to work for Lebanon's national interests.

ISG members praised President Aoun's leadership in urging for calm and unity. They welcomed the steps taken to contain the political crisis and to safeguard the country's unity, stability, sovereignty and territorial integrity. In this regard, the ISG welcome the call of the President for Prime Minister Hariri to return to Lebanon.

In solidarity with Lebanon, ISG members reaffirmed their commitment to support the country, its leadership and its people during this difficult time.

**Note to Editors**

The International Support Group has brought together the United Nations and the governments of China, France, Germany, Italy, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States, together with the European Union and the Arab League. It was launched in September 2013 by the UN Secretary-General with former President Michel Sleiman to help mobilize support and assistance for Lebanon's stability, sovereignty and state institutions and to specifically encourage assistance for the Lebanese Army, Syrian refugees in Lebanon and host communities and government programs and public services impacted by the Syrian crisis.

\*\*\*