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Work package 1: Discussion on a future vision, common values and political and economic reforms

رزمة العمل 1: نقاش نحو رؤية مستقبلية ، وحول القيم المشتركة، والإصلاحات السياسية والاقتصادية الممكنة

UPDATE 1

This multi-level dialogue project focuses on three tracks or “work packages”. The first track includes the convening of experts, opinion leaders, and respected personalities who have access or links to major political parties in both the traditional political landscape and the opposition. The group also comprises of representatives of think tanks, civil society groups, and community advocacy platforms.

The purpose of this group is to discuss the future vision of Lebanon, including common values and reforms of the political/ economic systems (such as substance and process-oriented ideas). Participants involved in this dialogue were selected based on being able to act as potential “bridge-builders”, who bring together different areas of expertise, the flexibility to



think out of the box, and the ability to prepare for substantive and process-oriented reforms in the future. Gender balance was ensured as well as diversity in terms of geographical or confessional backgrounds and age.

The first meeting was held in mid-July 2022, with just short of full attendance of the 15 invitees, and it was facilitated by Berghof’s Feras Kheirallah and Ali Anan. The agenda involved two segments: providing details on the project – including the project’s terms of references, goals, activities and planned outcomes –, and receiving feedback and input

from the attendees.

Members of the group had experienced the failure of previous dialogue initiatives, but these failed attempts in the past and the current crises motivated them, even more, to ensure that this attempt will succeed. Discussions centered on the best way to move forward and on how to improve the dialogue approach. This includes a deep-rooted “political dialogue” that addresses the major political problems that are polarising the nation (e.g. Lebanon’s geo-political positioning) and a “technical dialogue” that addresses “lower-hanging fruits” and topics that can more easily garner consensus (e.g. modernising Lebanon’s constitutional framework). Finally, there will be a “socially-oriented dialogue” that will focus on steps to minimise the repercussions of the economic and political crises, as well as on enhancing the resilience of Lebanon’s population.

As next steps, the Berghof team will engage in bilateral discussions with the stakeholders to formulate the preferred dialogue framework before organising to the next meeting. This track II dialogue format will convene regularly every 6 weeks with more in-depth discussions to take place on additional retreats in Lebanon.