

An aerial, black and white photograph of a city, likely Beirut, showing significant damage to buildings. The central focus is a large, multi-story building with a severely damaged roof, showing exposed structural elements and debris. To its left is another large building with a tiled roof, also showing signs of destruction. The surrounding area is filled with other buildings, some appearing more intact but others with visible damage. A dense canopy of trees is interspersed among the buildings. In the foreground, a street is visible with a few parked cars and a person walking. The overall scene conveys a sense of devastation and the need for reconstruction.

# RECONSTRUCTION OF BEIRUT

Beirut, Monday 15th March 2021

# Reconstruction of Beirut.



## 10 CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

With the support of the French Government and UNESCO, the Order of Engineers and Architects is developing the foundations for the rehabilitation of Beirut and launching ten proposals for immediate action.

Within the framework of the Beirut Urban Declaration led by the Beirut Order of Architects, in synergy with Lebanon's schools of architecture, a three-day digital forum gathering more than 70 experts and stakeholders - engineers, architects, urban planners, members of civil society, companies - has now come to a fruitful conclusion.

Accompanying the needs of the inhabitants while respecting the heritage and modernity, the foundations for the rehabilitation of a city have now been laid : Immediate actions will be taken to help a city not only deeply traumatized by the August 4th explosion but also by several decades of lack of coordinated and prospective urban public policy.

The Beirut Urban Declaration insists on the importance of seeing civil society take ownership of the reconstruction process for a plural, sustainable, inclusive Beirut. A capital city of rich heritage able to regain the exceptional attractiveness that it has always shown.

This approach is in line with the April 2018 CEDRE conference on the needs for investment, infrastructure and public services as well as the December 2, 2020 conference in support of the Lebanese population which had discussed the reconstruction of port facilities, their integration into the city, as well as the rehabilitation of neighborhoods affected by the explosion.

Ten immediate actions are to be undertaken to lay the foundations for the rehabilitation of Beirut by 2031.

## Transport and urban mobility

- 1: **Develop 22 public bus lines** that will serve the different neighborhoods of Greater Beirut
- 2: Launch the implementation of the soft link project that **connects the Pine Forest to the city center** on a distance of 3.8 km

## Housing

- 3: Mobilize vacant homes or buildings to **develop a supply of affordable rental housing**
- 4: **Launch, with the Public Corporation for Housing**, a consultation of public, private and civil society actors to develop a housing policy for all

## Port of Beirut

- 5: Within the framework of a modern port regulation, elaborate a master-plan for the reconstruction of the port that will allow to **restore its links with the city**, based on concrete achievements and temporary connectors between the port and the city.
- 6: **Preserve the grain silos as a memorial site** for the tragedy that struck the city.

## Urban Regulation Heritage

- 7: **Adopt without delay the regulatory and legislative framework** in order to put in place an operational framework for the protection of heritage sites and buildings
- 8: Urgently establish **an inventory of buildings and ensembles of heritage character** in the different districts of Beirut

## Master plan for the districts devastated by the explosion

- 9: **Develop and adopt a plan for the protection**, enhancement and urban revitalization of the districts devastated by the explosion in connection with the surrounding districts
- 10: Launch tactical urban planning operations and **pilot projects for the development of public spaces** (Fouad Boutros Park, Mar Mikhael Station, etc. ....)

## Quoting Jad Tabet, President of the Order of Engineers and Architects

« These ten recommendations are the result of a very rich public debate that took place in the presence of more than a thousand participants from all over the world.



They are the result of six months of work in the field and a reflection that brought together experts, academics, public bodies and representatives of civil society. A conference scheduled for April 10 and 11 with the schools of architecture will allow us to move forward in this direction. A new forum supported by the French government and UNESCO, two partners whose unfailing support we welcome, will be organized next September to follow up on the recommendations. »

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