



2025- 2026

GEP DEEP DIVES

DEFENSE AND SECURITY

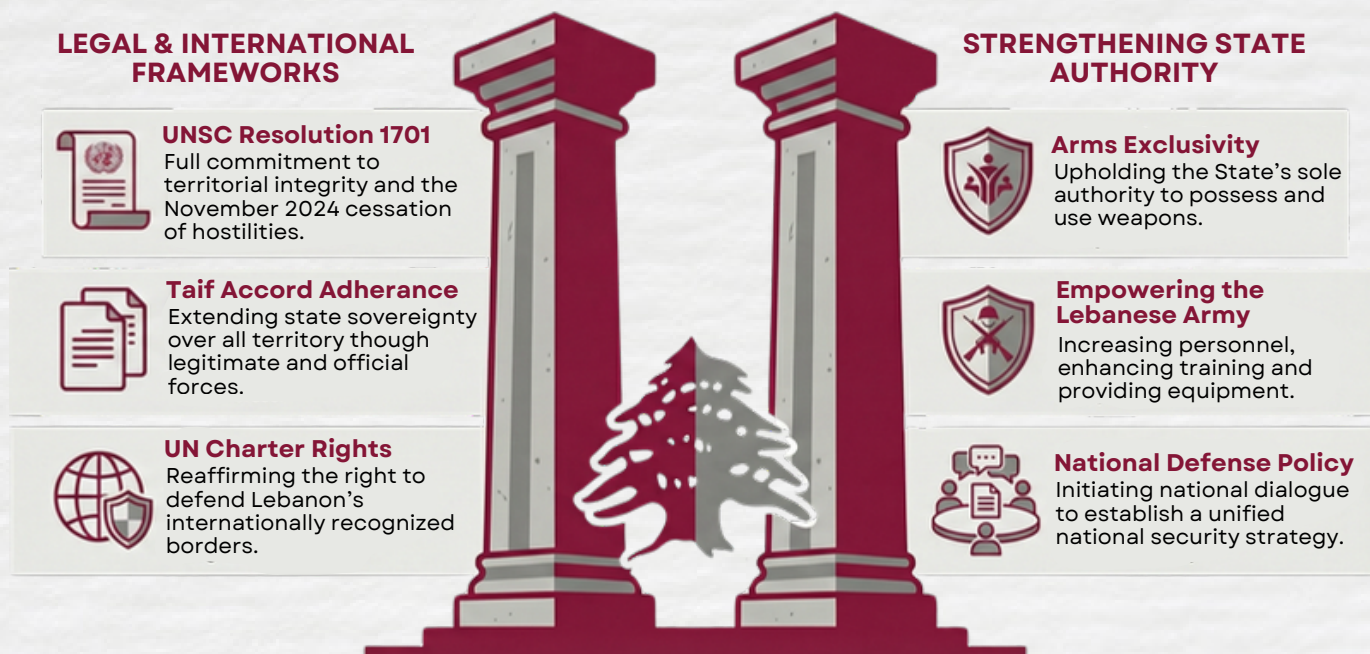


**AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT**



I. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT PROMISES

The following commitments were made by the Lebanese government in its ministerial statement, forming the baseline against which actual progress is assessed across the Defense and Security sector.



II. AREAS WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE



1. Ceasefire Agreement & Implementation of Resolution 1701

- Lebanon starts implementing the **UN Security Council Resolution 1701** and the November 2024 cessation of hostilities, with the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) as the primary enforcement body.
- A **Mechanism Committee was established under American chairmanship** — with French, Lebanese, Israeli, and UNIFIL membership, to monitor and apply the ceasefire agreement.
- Full commitment to **Lebanon's territorial integrity** has been reaffirmed as a cornerstone of national policy.

II. AREAS WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE (CONT'D)



2. Weapons Consolidation & State Arms Control

- On 5 August 2025, **the Lebanese Cabinet approved a major directive tasking the Lebanese Armed Forces with developing a plan to establish a state monopoly on arms, aimed at disarming all militias.**
- **The Council of Ministers approved on 5 September 2025 a plan from LAF to consolidate all weapons under state authority,** across 4–5 phases, with monthly progress reports submitted to Cabinet.
- Phase 1 was completed in February 2026, with monthly progress reports submitted to Cabinet throughout, and Phase 2 subsequently launched.
- New standardized **weapon-carry permits** were introduced for 2025; all 2024 licenses were suspended, and permits were frozen across multiple governorates with limited exemptions, reinforcing the state's sole authority over arms.



3. Army Deployment in the South

- **The LAF expanded its presence south of the Litani River with around 10,000 soldiers** deployed across roughly 165–200 positions since the November 2024 ceasefire, as reported by UNIFIL.
- **Authorization was granted to recruit 6,000 additional soldiers,** partly to compensate for the expected conclusion of UNIFIL's mandate.
- The army secured approximately **90% of its assigned tasks in the southern sector,** conducting over 30,000 military missions, uncovering and processing numerous tunnels, closing multiple crossings, and seizing significant quantities of rockets.



4. Palestinian Camp Disarmament

- Following President Abbas's visit, **the Palestinian Authority gave its full official legitimacy to Lebanese authorities** to bring Palestinian weapons under state control, the first time such recognition has been granted since 1969.
- **Heavy and medium weapons have been collected from 5 out of 12 Palestinian refugee camps;** disarmament operations are ongoing in the remaining 7.

II. AREAS WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE (CONT'D)



5. Lebanon–Syria Border Security

- **Direct communication lines** were established between Lebanese and Syrian army units for rapid de-escalation, and a joint operational room was linked to the existing liaison office.
- **Cross-border smuggling** and captagon trafficking have measurably decreased; both Lebanese and Syrian armies are actively dismantling drug manufacturing facilities on their respective sides.



6. Lebanon- Cyprus border Security

- The **government finalized the maritime boundary delimitation agreement with Cyprus**, following the earlier 2022 agreement with Israel. This step reduced long-standing legal ambiguity surrounding Lebanon's western maritime borders and strengthened the State's ability to assert control over its exclusive economic zone.



7. Military Support

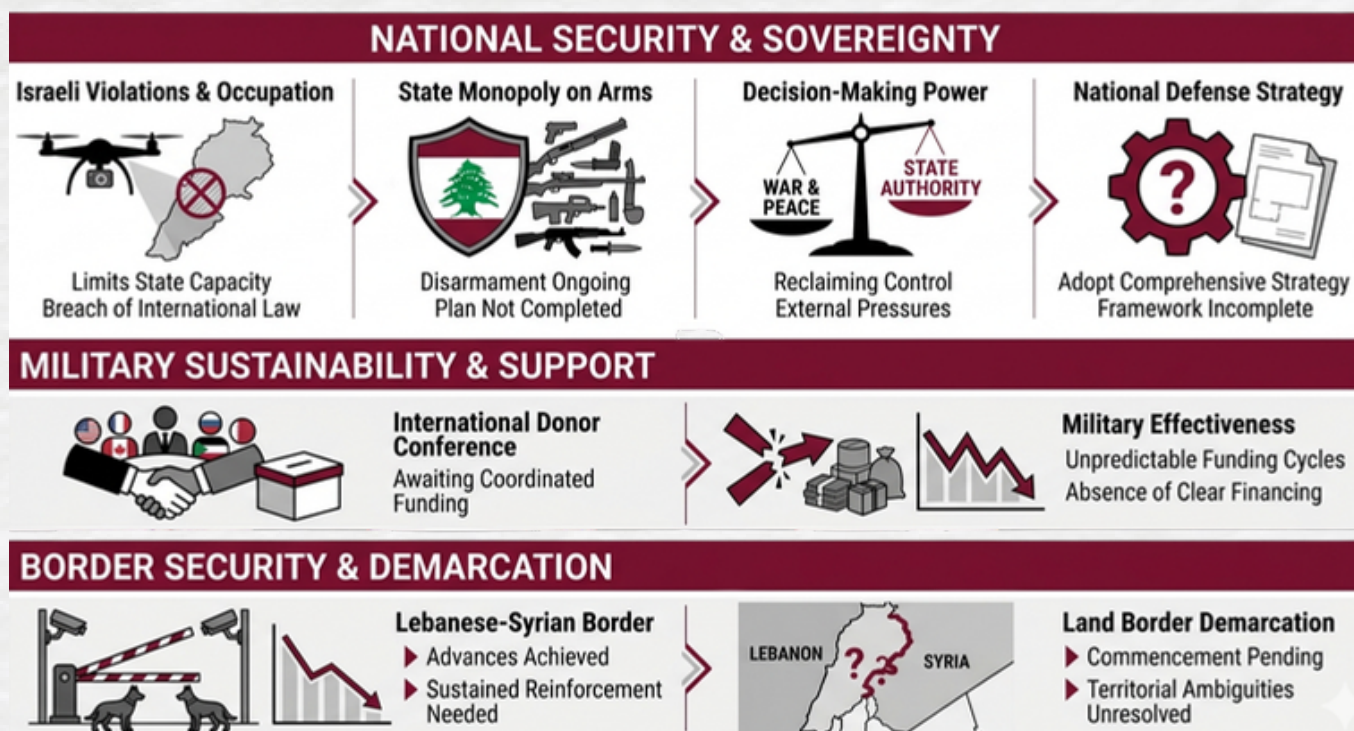
- **\$230 million in US military assistance secured**, among the largest packages ever granted to the LAF.
- **€12.55 million from the European Union** for non-lethal equipment and supplies, disbursed through UN programs.
- A **tripartite MoU with UNSCOL and UNDP** improved coordination of international assistance to the LAF under Resolution 1701; a follow-on agreement with UNIFIL secured essential fuel and food supplies for operational continuity.
- **Defense cooperation agreements** were signed with the Netherlands and Hungary in November 2025, diversifying Lebanon's defense diplomacy beyond traditional partners.
- Additional **bilateral agreements with Greece** (specific armaments) and **Kuwait** (military equipment and vehicles) are concluded or near signature.
- An **international conference in support of the LAF** and all legitimate armed forces is being prepared in Paris
- **Salary increases for active-duty and retired military personnel** were approved; **school-fee reductions** were negotiated with private schools for soldiers' children.

II. AREAS WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE (CONT'D)

- **France donated 39 VAB armored personnel carriers to the LAF**, handed over at the Port of Beirut on 31 March 2026, to enhance troop mobility and protection in support of the plan in the south.

III. AREAS WHERE EFFORTS CONTINUE TO EVOLVE - AGENDA IN PROGRESS

1 Defense and Security



IV. OVERALL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Commitment	Status	Note
Implementing UN Resolution 1701 and ceasefire arrangements		LAF deployed as primary enforcement body; Mechanism Committee operational; however, persistent Israeli violations and continued occupation limit full implementation
Extending state sovereignty and monopoly on arms		Cabinet directives issued in August and September 2025; Phases 1 completed February 2026 and Phase 2 launched; Palestinian weapons recognition secured; however, full disarmament across all phases and factions remains ongoing
Deploying the army along internationally recognized borders and securing all fronts		10,000 soldiers deployed across 165–200 positions south of the Litani; 30,000+ missions conducted; 90% of southern sector tasks secured; 39 French VAB armored carriers delivered March 2026
Building a state with full authority over war and peace		Significant institutional steps taken; however, full sovereign decision-making power over war and peace has not yet been reclaimed due to external pressures and unresolved security dynamics
Establishing a national strategic security decision		No comprehensive national defense strategy formally adopted yet; framework for long-term security planning remains incomplete
Increasing and equipping the legitimate armed forces		\$230M US aid, €12.55M EU support, bilateral agreements with Netherlands, Hungary, Greece and Kuwait secured; donor conference in Paris in preparation; salary increases and welfare measures approved; 6,000 additional recruits authorized
Controlling borders and combating smuggling and terrorism		Direct Lebanese-Syrian coordination established; captagon trafficking measurably reduced; however, full border control not yet achieved and land demarcation with Syria has not commenced



Note: RED - early ; YELLOW – moderate; GREEN – advanced



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