

Statement by the Republic of Cyprus
OCHA Virtual Briefing on Lebanon (10 August 2020)

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the people of Cyprus express their unwavering solidarity with Lebanon and its people during one of the most harrowing periods of the country's history. In these difficult times, Cyprus stands in full solidarity with Lebanon, a country with which we enjoy a long, historical, and cordial bond.

Following the devastating explosion at Beirut's port and considering our geographical proximity, the Government of Cyprus responded immediately by sending two helicopters with rescue crews and canine units to Lebanon to help locate survivors in the rubble of buildings destroyed in the massive blast. In addition, a three-member team of volunteer doctors flew to Beirut, carrying facilities for emergency operations.

So far, five tones of medical supplies and foodstuffs have been sent to Lebanon and 40 additional tons will be send in the coming days, including medical supplies, generators, clothing and non-perishable foodstuff, collected via public donations.

As a close friend of Lebanon, Cyprus responded right away to the international call for rapid action to help Lebanon. In this regard, the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Nicos Anastasiades participated at the "*International conference on support to Beirut and the Lebanese people*" on August 9th, at the invitation of the President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron and the Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres. During the conference, President Anastasiades pledged 5 million euro for assistance to Lebanon and assured the continuation of Cyprus' contribution to international relief efforts, including through the framework of the European Union.

Last but not least, beyond the financial assistance, President Anastasiades stressed that Cyprus stands ready to place the airports of Larnaca and Paphos and the "Andreas Papandreou" air base, as well as the ports of Limassol and Larnaca, at the disposal of the United Nations and of the international community in general, including for the transfer of humanitarian assistance and for the purposes of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).