



**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN  
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES FEMMES  
(Founded 1888)**

**UN Briefing on the Humanitarian Situation in Lebanon**

**10 August 2020**

**Excellencies and Distinguished Colleagues,**

**I am Dr. Elizabeth Carll, Main UN Representative, New York for the International Council of Women (ICW-CIF), women's rights organization established in 1888, with National Councils in 64 countries. Our condolences to the people of Lebanon for the current crisis of the explosion, which further exacerbates the political and economic difficulties and coping with COVID-19 already challenging the Lebanese people. The ICW-CIF applauds the rapid response of the UN community in support of Lebanon.**

**The current crisis will impact the well-being of the community especially women and children. The need expressed by various member states for the health and well-being and freedom from violence for women and children and vulnerable people must be a priority. The recovery process will be long and challenging and will require the efforts of all. The NGO community stands ready to provide support. This crisis is an opportunity to build back better which must include women leaders, as women and their families are directly impacted and they clearly understand the challenges. Having women leaders participate equally will improve the recovery process and provide ongoing stability. It has been shown that countries with women leaders do better economically, socially, and health-wise. An example is the successful tackling of COVID-19 by countries led by women. If we are truly to build back better in Lebanon and around the world, women must also participate in all levels of government and the community. The time for inclusive action is now.**