

Interview on “Economics First”

on Radio Voice of Lebanon on September 4th 2015

with Alphonse Dib

Nasnas: We are preparing a draft for talking points to be discussed by all relevant parties: the private sector , the civil society and the public sector , to seek an action plan at a national economic and social scale

“The Economic and Social Council of Lebanon, thought decided in the Taef agreement in 1989, was only created in 2000. I have had the honor to preside the first General Assembly and am still assuming the functions 15 years later, since I firmly believe in the role of the Council as a platform for constructive dialogue between different components of the Lebanese Society.

Our role is to support governments to shape their social and economic policies, and we are willing to assume this functions until a second general assembly is appointed.

We are proud of our achievements throughout the years. Our main focus was to create and sustain fruitful International relations with foreign actors. We have even received the visit of Mr. Henri Malosse, president of European Economic and Social Council in July. The council has also published in 2007 an economic comprehensive study that was discussed on many levels.

I would also like to point out that according to the bylaws of the council, we have been volunteering without any form of compensation.

We have been struggling in the absence of a general assembly and we have decided not to issue any statements in the name of the council.

Due to the degrading economic situation, we have tried to brainstorm credible solutions and come up with a comprehensive vision for the Lebanese economy and Society to make our country a better place to live.

We are seeking a pragmatic solution for a social and economic vision, a draft for talking points in workshops between the Lebanese people: the economic assemblies, the workers unions, the civil society to seek agreements that are convenient for all and compromises to set up an action plan at a national scale. I am trying to stress on the importance of dialogue. It is the only possible solution to move forward.

We are often accused to be dreamers of an older generation who has been through tough economic times, especially during the turmoil in Lebanon. However, we were able to go beyond this phase by believing in Lebanon. I hereby urge all youngsters to believe in Lebanon, to never lose hope and to hold on. If you hold on, Lebanon will be saved through you.