



INVESTMENT POLICY REVIEW

LEBANON



UNITED NATIONS



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- **A blank in a table** indicates that the item is not applicable.
- **A slash (/) between dates** representing years – for example 2009/10 indicates a financial year.
- **Use of an en dash (–) between dates** representing years – for example 2008–2010 signifies the full period involved, including the beginning and end years.
- **Reference to “dollars” (\$)** means United States dollars, unless otherwise indicated.
- **Annual rates of growth or change**, unless otherwise stated, refer to annual compound rates.
- **Details and percentages** in tables do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.



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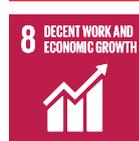
PREFACE

UNCTAD Investment Policy Reviews (IPRs) are intended to help countries improve their investment policies with the objective of meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to familiarize governments and the international private sector with an individual country's investment environment. The reviews are considered by the UNCTAD Commission on Investment, Enterprise and Development. The analysis is based on the UNCTAD Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (IPFSD) and its core principles and guidelines (UNCTAD, 2015a). The recommendations of the IPR are then implemented with the technical assistance of development partners, including UNCTAD. The support to beneficiary countries is delivered through a series of activities that can span several years.

Consistent with the SDGs, IPRs encourage official development assistance and investment in countries where needs are greatest. The IPR recommendations are in line with countries' national development plans and focus on key development sectors, including agriculture, mining, manufacturing, tourism and infrastructure. By helping countries in this manner, the IPR programme contributes to:



SDG 1 target b: “to create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions”.



SDG 8 target 2: to “achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors”.



SDG 10 target b: “to encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes”.



SDG 17 target 3: “to mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources”.

The Investment Policy Review of Lebanon was initiated at the request of the Government. Chapter I analyzes the legal and regulatory framework for investment; chapter II was decided by the Government, which requested a focus on the strategic promotion of FDI into the information economy. The IPR is based on a fact-finding mission undertaken in September 2017 and information current at that date, as well as additional data made available to UNCTAD until June 2018. The mission received the full cooperation of the relevant ministries, departments and agencies, in particular the Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (IDAL). It also benefited from the views of the private sector, foreign and domestic, as well as development partners. The Government of Lebanon and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Lebanon provided substantive contributions as well as financial and logistical support to the IPR process. A preliminary version of this report was shared by IDAL with national stakeholders to gather inputs and suggestions. The final report reflects their comments, including those from ministries and agencies of the Government of Lebanon.

Geneva, June 2018



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