



Date: 01/12/2020

Caretaker Finance Minister Dr. Ghazi Wazni met with the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Ján Kubiš, to discuss financial matters and the International Support Group for Lebanon Conference that will be co-chaired tomorrow in Paris by French President Emmanuel Macron and the UN Secretary-General António Guterres in order to provide additional emergency aid to Lebanon.

After the meeting, Kubiš stated the following:

"First of all, I was very glad to be received by H.E the Minister, and I was encouraged to hear about the activities of the Ministry under his guidance, with regards to both the budget for 2020 and the budget for 2021.

It is important to make the 2021 budget more realistic, taking into account all the problematic economic, financial and social developments in the country. We hope it will have a very strong focus on the social needs and protection of the people. This process is still in the beginning, but I hope it will be completed by the Parliament it in good time, because a country cannot operate without a budget.

We have also discussed many other files, including the forensic audit, the issues of liquidity, foreign currency reserves and the country's ability to provide subsidies under this increasingly difficult situation, including the lack of necessary liquidity.

We also discussed other economic and social issues.

We also talked about future UN plans, starting with the conference that is co-chaired by the UN Secretary-General and President Macron. We will try to assess the situation in the country and how the international community can work with Lebanon to help. The first step, of course, is to have a reform-oriented competent government as soon as possible."