

Country/entity	Lebanon
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Tripoli Memorandum
Date	8 Sep 2008
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/local conflict

Lebanon's Political Crisis (2005 –)

The current political crisis in Lebanon is characterized by the conflation of internal and external agendas, transforming Lebanon in a proxy battle ground between other countries in the region such as Iran and Saudi Arabia, while Syria-related security concerns continue to spill over into the country.

The assassination of Lebanon's President Rafiq Hariri on the 14 February 2005, in which the Syrian government was implicated, sparked public outrage in Lebanon and fuelled protests that would eventually lead to the withdrawal of Syrian peacekeeping forces in Lebanon. This gave birth to the two oppositional groups March 14 Alliance and March 8 Alliance. Elections in May and June that year would usher in a new government, wherein March 8 Alliance, led by the Free Patriotic Movement, with support from Hezbollah, Amal and the Progressive Socialist Party would win 45 per cent of the seats. A year later, in July 2006, Hezbollah sparked a 34-day conflict with Israel following a rocket attack and the capture of three Israeli soldiers. Although both sides declared victory following the implementation of Resolution 1701, Hezbollah is widely considered to have been the relative victor. With its popularity boosted, and militarily emboldened, the parliamentary opposition announced the desire to form a unity government. Sceptical to the increased power that would grant the opposition, the Saudi-backed Lebanese government refused. In response the head of Hezbollah, Sayyed Nasrallah declared a deadlock in December 2006 to last until new parliamentary elections in 2009. Nasrallah also expressed an unwillingness to escalate the situation. Nonetheless, following a string of government crack-downs on Hezbollah, fighting broke out in May 2008 wherein Hezbollah militants took control of West Beirut. Fighting was eventually resolved with the Doha Declaration in 2008.

Uprisings against the Assad regime in Syria in 2011 further deepened the division between the two factions. In 2012, the two camps signed the Baabda Declaration, agreeing to the principle of neutrality towards Syria. However, in 2013 Hezbollah violated the agreement by giving the Syrian government military support. In 2016, Michel Aoun was appointed as president, breaking a two-year deadlock, and in May 2018 the first parliamentary elections were held in nine years. It took nine months to form the government, however, a renewed political deadlock ensued in November 2019 after the resignation of prime minister Hariri following unprecedented mass anti-government protests. Political turmoil continues to define Lebanon's internal politics with earlier mass protests breaking out in 2009, 2011 and 2015.

Close

Lebanon's Political Crisis (2005 –)

Stage Pre-negotiation/process

Conflict nature Inter-group

Peace process Lebanon peace process

Parties Arab Democratic Party (Jabal Mohsen); Sunni Militias (Bab al-Tabanneh)

Third parties	-
Description	Six-point agreement resolving the local spill-over of violence related to the Cypress Spring (2005) and the armed excursion of Hezbollah in May 2008 towards the Siniara Government. Pre-negotiation agreement provides for reaching an agreement between local figures; holding a state-sponsored meeting between the players of the city; call on the army command to set a timeframe for IDP return; provision of temporary shelter for IDPs or rent allowances; speed up assessment of damages; call on the Prime minister to support financially.
Agreement document	LB_080908_Tripoli Memorandum.pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF
Groups	
Children/youth	No specific mention.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ethnic/national group	No specific mention.
Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.
Refugees/displaced persons	Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive Page 1, 3 – Call on the Army Command in the North to set a timeframe for the return of the displaced to their homes and secure all details pertaining to their security. 4 – Provide temporary, alternative housing for those citizens whose houses are too deteriorated to allow their return, by giving them rent allowances until their houses are restored and their return is made possible.
Social class	No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	No specific mention.
Traditional/religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	No specific mention.
Constitution	No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing	No specific mention.
Territorial power sharing	No specific mention.
Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
Military power sharing	No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general	No specific mention.
Bill of rights/similar	No specific mention.
Treaty incorporation	No specific mention.
Civil and political rights	No specific mention.
Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	No specific mention.
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	No specific mention.
State of emergency provisions	No specific mention.
Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Other
Page 1, All categories and factions in Tripoli form a single social fabric, which believes in the project of a strong, fair state.
Tripoli is an ancient city with roots reaching deep into the recesses of history.
Throughout the decades following Lebanon's independence, it has played its national role as a safe cradle of fraternal coexistence and a fertile soil for the freedom of opinion, thought and belief.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	Page 1, 3 – Call on the Army Command in the North to set a timeframe for the return of the displaced to their homes and secure all details pertaining to their security.
Ceasefire	Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision Page 1, ... 1 – Reach an agreement among all leaders and figures regarding the definitive preservation of peace, security and stability, and abstain from having recourse to violence and weapons, regardless of the circumstances.
Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	<p>Page 1, It is the heir of a glorious heritage and has never experienced extremism and isolation; rather, it always was a symbol of moderation, openness and assimilation of others. Nowadays, Tripoli rejects all forms of strife and refuses to become a stage for settling old scores on its soil. It is looking forward to having security services, especially the army and the ISF, play an active and essential role as they represent a safety valve of stability and sustainable civil peace.</p> <p>Page 1, 3 – Call on the Army Command in the North to set a timeframe for the return of the displaced to their homes and secure all details pertaining to their security.</p>
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	Page 1, It is the heir of a glorious heritage and has never experienced extremism and isolation; rather, it always was a symbol of moderation, openness and assimilation of others. Nowadays, Tripoli rejects all forms of strife and refuses to become a stage for settling old scores on its soil. It is looking forward to having security services, especially the army and the ISF, play an active and essential role as they represent a safety valve of stability and sustainable civil peace.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims Page 1, Page 1, 3 – Call on the Army Command in the North to set a timeframe for the return of the displaced to their homes and secure all details pertaining to their security.
4 – Provide temporary, alternative housing for those citizens whose houses are too deteriorated to allow their return, by giving them rent allowances until their houses are restored and their return is made possible.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations Transitional justice→Reparations→Material reparations
Page 1, 5 – Speed up the process of assessing human and material damages by the Higher Relief Council and all relevant institutions in order to allow for the urgent and speedy payment of compensations for the victims.
6 – Call on the prime minister to provide all necessary compensations.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.
Related cases	No specific mention.
Source	Source: Now Media, Tripoli Memorandum, 9 September 2008, https://now.mmedia.me/lb/en/newspecials/the_tripoli_memorandum_signed_on_september_8
