



EMBASSY OF ITALY  
BEIRUT

*Speech of H.E. Fabrizio Marcelli  
Ambassador of Italy to Lebanon  
Beirut, 07 January 2025*

Your Excellency Dr. Youssef El Khalil, Minister of Finance,

Professor Gustavo Piga, Director of the International Master in Public Procurement Management,  
University of Rome Tor Vergata

Ms. Lamia Moubayed Bissat, President of the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan,

Distinguished Guests, Dear Participants,

I am truly happy to address you today at the conclusion of this important program. In these challenging times, marked by the recent conflict that has deeply affected Lebanon, initiatives like this remind us of the essential work of building strong institutions, even in the face of adversity.

First, I wish to express my gratitude to our partners: the University of Rome Tor Vergata, whose unparalleled expertise has been the cornerstone of this program, and the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan, which has demonstrated remarkable leadership in advancing Lebanon's financial governance.

Public procurement may seem technical, but its strategic importance cannot be overstated, particularly in the context of Lebanon today. It represents more than just a mechanism for purchasing goods and services. Public procurement is a tool to rebuild trust in governance, channel resources efficiently, and foster transparency. When managed effectively, it becomes a driver of economic stability and social cohesion—both urgently needed in Lebanon's current landscape.

The enactment of Lebanon's Public Procurement Law in 2021 was a landmark achievement, but as we know, laws do not implement themselves. This program aimed to bridge the gap between policy and practice by equipping public officials with the skills and knowledge to ensure this law delivers on its promises. For Lebanon, where corruption and inefficiencies have historically undermined public trust, strengthening public procurement is not just a governance issue but a foundation for recovery.

The importance of this reform becomes even clearer in the wake of the recent crisis. Lebanon needs systems that allocate resources transparently, particularly in reconstruction efforts and in ensuring that public funds benefit citizens directly. Public procurement done right can attract much-needed international investment, promote fair competition, and drive sustainable growth.

Over the past months, this program has brought together dedicated professionals who have deepened their expertise in procurement laws, international best practices, and principles of sustainability and integrity. Their journey was not just academic—it was a step toward becoming leaders in their institutions, capable of ensuring accountability and driving positive change.

**Contacts**

**Press Office – Embassy of Italy Beirut**

Tel: +961 (05) 954955

Fax: +961 (05) 959616

[Press.Beirut@esteri.it](mailto:Press.Beirut@esteri.it)

I am also proud that this program included a study visit to Italy, where participants exchanged ideas with institutions like the Italian Antitrust and Anti-Corruption Authorities. Such opportunities to learn from real-world experiences highlight the tangible benefits of international collaboration.

Italy decided to support this initiative because we believe in Lebanon's potential and its capacity to overcome challenges through strong governance and reform. Our partnership is grounded in a shared belief that good governance is the bedrock of stability and prosperity. Public procurement reform is particularly strategic because it not only fights corruption but also sets the stage for long-term development, transparency, and innovation.

As we close this chapter, I am confident that the skills and perspectives gained here will have a lasting impact. Each graduate of this program carries with them the tools to make a difference—not just in their institutions, but in the lives of the people they serve.

Let me end by reaffirming Italy's commitment to standing with Lebanon. We will continue to support reforms that bring tangible benefits to all Lebanese citizens, guided by the principles of partnership and mutual respect.

Congratulations to all who made this program a success. Thank you.