

Speech of the Ambassador of Italy to Lebanon Mr. Fabrizio Marcelli

Director General Mr. Georges Maarawi.

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, ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I join you today for the inauguration of the second edition of the International Certification in Strategic Public Procurement. When we launched the first edition last year, our common ambition was to give real substance to Lebanon's new Public Procurement Law by strengthening the skills and professionalism of those who are entrusted with its implementation. The first edition was a success, demonstrating that Lebanon has a cadre of dedicated and talented professionals ready to translate reform into practice. Today, we are proud not only to continue on the same path, but also to broaden its scope.

This second edition welcomes more participants, expands its reach with additional short programmes in public management designed for key Lebanese institutions, and - most importantly - introduces scholarships enabling selected officials to attend the International Master in Public Procurement Management in Rome. These new elements show our conviction that reform does not rest on legal frameworks alone, but on knowledge, tools, people capable of carrying them forward and effective implementation.

I also wish to underline that this programme is made possible thanks to the financial support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, with an allocation of around 250,000 euros. This investment is a concrete demonstration of Italy's commitment to accompany Lebanon in strengthening its institutions to implement key reforms.

Public procurement is often perceived as a technical exercise, but in reality, it is a strategic instrument of governance. It ensures transparency, fairness, and value for money in the use of public resources. At this critical time for Lebanon, effective procurement is indispensable to rebuild trust, secure the confidence of international partners, and channel resources towards recovery and sustainable growth.

Italy is proud to stand with Lebanon in this endeavor. Supporting procurement reform means strengthening institutions, and strong institutions are the foundation of stability and prosperity. Through this programme, we are investing in professionalism, accountability and democratic resilience.

To all participants in this new edition, let me say that your engagement is of great importance. By equipping yourselves with advanced skills and international best practices, you will become leaders in your institutions, champions of integrity and transparency, and agents of positive change.

I wish to express my gratitude to our partners, the University of Rome Tor Vergata and the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan, whose commitment and expertise make this programme possible.

I wish you every success in the months ahead, and I reaffirm Italy's continued commitment to accompany Lebanon on its reform journey.

Thank you.