

Which Defense Strategy for Lebanon? By Dr. Reeda Halawi – Attorney at Law

"For the rule of law to be established in Lebanon, for state institutions to be reformed and for the confidence of Lebanese citizens to be restored in their government, the State of Lebanon should ensure the security of the country by defending its land and borders, and should guarantee the safety and security of its citizens. The State is also responsible for imposing Lebanon's sovereignty at the international level and must strive to preserve Lebanon's political independence in accordance with its internationally recognized borders. To enable the State to carry out the necessary reforms that will reactivate and make state institutions more efficient, accountable and productive in line with recognized international standards, it must create a national defense and security strategy. This national defense and security strategy is one of the most important pillars of the state, which will be established through the development of 5 main sub-strategies, namely 1) the general military strategy, 2) the strategy of territorial organization and defense, 3) the industrial and technological defense research strategy, 4) the human resources strategy, and 5) the fiscal strategy.

The establishment of these sub-strategies will equip and prepare the State of Lebanon in times of peace and war to take the appropriate political, social, economic and military decisions, especially by allowing it to monopolize the use of weapons and strengthen the role of the Lebanese Army which upholds a strong combat mindset to protect the people of Lebanon and to fight the necessary wars in accordance with the provisions of the Lebanese Constitution and with International Law. These sub-strategies also play a key role in activating the Lebanese economy through the extraction and use of available sources and raw materials to enhance productivity in the economic sector, as well as in developing the research, technological and digital transformation fields within the defense and educational sectors, producing new job opportunities for the youth. This is to be complemented with several legal reforms whether to enhance accountability, fight corruption and clientelism, or legislate in fields where a lack of policies and laws exist."