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An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission, led by Ernesto Ramirez Rigo, visited Beirut, Lebanon, from February 10 to 13, 2026, to discuss progress on key economic and financial reforms. At the conclusion of the mission, the following statement was made:

“The draft Financial Stabilization and Depositor Recovery (FSDR) law recently approved by Cabinet is a first step toward rehabilitating the banking sector and giving depositors gradual access to their deposits. The discussions focused on improvements needed to align this draft law with international principles, including to ensure that the hierarchy of claims will be respected and no losses would be allocated to depositors before they are allocated to shareholders or junior creditors, and to reestablish a viable banking system for current and future generations. *In this regard, the bank restructuring strategy needs to be consistent with available liquidity in the system to provide the resources needed as bank deposits are gradually released and ensure that the contributions required by the state do not undermine efforts to restore public debt sustainability.*

In addition, the discussions focused on amendments to the Bank Resolution Law (BRL) to cement an independent, transparent, and effective bank resolution process in line with international principles. We hope that Parliament can discuss and approve these amendments in the coming months.

Also, the authorities are preparing a medium-term fiscal framework, which is critically needed to support their bank restructuring strategy, underpin a sovereign debt restructuring to restore debt sustainability, and expand much needed social and capital spending, while rebuilding institutional capacity. Staff underscored the importance of ensuring that new expenditure commitments, including any further increases in public sector salaries and pensions, are in line with this framework and are accompanied by necessary revenue mobilization efforts to safeguard macroeconomic stability. In this context, while ongoing efforts to strengthen tax collection are welcome, tax policy measures will be essential to increase revenues over the medium term. The approval of a more modern and effective income tax law would present an important first step in this direction.

Lastly, the mission thanks the authorities for their cooperation and constructive engagement”.

To close, three important points could be added to buttress the above statement: 1) though the IMF still insists on the hierarchy of claims, it has dropped the condition that depositors be paid per account/bank not per sector; 2) government contribution is now ‘recommended’ but it has to be consistent with debt sustainability; 3) also not objected on, is the use of part of the gold reserves for deposit retrievals.

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