

**Speech by Alexis Loeber  
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**Developing National Capability for  
Integrated Border Management in Lebanon  
BM Lebanon equipment hand over event**

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*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

Representatives of the ministries and security agencies involved in border management,  
Excellencies,  
International Centre for Migration Policy Development Colleagues,  
Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to be here today to witness the handover of the equipment that will contribute to more effective and safer border control in Lebanon.

One of the common objectives shared by Lebanon and the international community is an effective and efficient Lebanese border management system that promotes security, development and human contact while protecting human rights through secured and controlled borders.

Integrated Border Management is crucial for achieving this objective, and improving regional stability, as well as facilitating the legitimate movement of people and goods. There is not a single model for IBM. Each country is unique, each border is unique. Those in charge of IBM projects like the one gathering us

today are open-minded and ready to share the experience of other experts and then design the optimum application in Lebanon.

The difficulties involved in this exercise should not be underestimated, and we do not. We welcome the progress that has been achieved so far. This very challenging initiative has already achieved encouraging results. Allow me to start with the equipment that is being handed over today. It will certainly contribute to safer and more effective border control but will also facilitate the movement of travellers while enhancing the protection of the most vulnerable among them, and will facilitate trade. One of the reasons that make us confident of the appropriateness and adequacy of it, is that the definition of standards, the types and quantities have been defined in close cooperation with the end users: the four agencies representing the main beneficiaries of this programme.

This programme has also been worked on very closely with the General Security and Customs to institutionalise specialised training and human resources management, which are essential aspects of any border management system.

I am particularly encouraged by the spirit of cooperation that prevails among the agencies involved in the programme's work. In IBM, only by working together will we succeed. Despite the difficult circumstances, you have shown great commitment to improving border management, thus showing that IBM is not an optional accessory to be eventually applied in the far future, but a well-conceived strategy, with a sound action plan and procedures, fit to respond even to the current challenges that Lebanon is facing, not least those resulting from the massive influx of refugees.

It is also important to emphasise the excellent cooperation of European Union Member States in this initiative by facilitating the mobilisation of highly specialised and competent expertise working in border management within their administrations to share their experiences while contextualising them to the Lebanese needs.

Looking ahead, the EU is willing to continue to support Lebanon in this challenging field, both technically and financially. The EU will continue to support the relevant Border Authorities in Lebanon to carry out the necessary reforms for effective border control.

I would like to conclude by thanking the members of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development team for providing high quality expertise, as well as for their commitment to the success of this initiative.

I am looking forward to seeing the results of the work that we will continue together this year, as we all strive to push forward the objective of improved integrated border management.