Statement by the Host Organizations of the Cedar Revolution Commemoration Event

Nine years ago, the Cedar Revolution brought about the withdrawal of the Syrian army from Lebanon. Now, in 2014, Lebanon remains a battleground between the alliance formed by the Iranian and Syrian regimes, and those who chose to unite and peacefully confront the Syrian and Iranian aggressions in 2005.

Our celebration this year comes at a time when the Lebanese are preparing for the pivotal Presidential elections. The advent of a new president who is committed to the principles of the Cedar Revolution would have an immeasurable effect on advancing Lebanon's quest for stability, freedom and democracy.

The Lebanese Americans maintain that the new president must be committed to:

- disarming Hezbollah and banning all weapons outside the control of the Lebanese armed and security forces,
- building state institutions,
- upholding international resolutions, specifically UNSCRs 1701 and 1559,
- controlling the Lebanese-Syrian border,
- sheltering Lebanon from Iran's and the Assad regime's transgressions, and
- creating an international status for Lebanon as a promoter of peace and an ally of the free world.

It is therefore imperative that the United States with the assistance of its friends and allies in the international community:

1. Insist on holding the Lebanese presidential elections on time, in a free and democratic process, according to the constitution, without undue amendments, and with no foreign interference.
2. Assist in providing the necessary security environment by making sure that Lebanese armed and security forces fulfill their basic mission of guaranteeing the security of the elections, including the safety of and freedom of movement for the members of parliament.
3. Endorse the candidate who will strengthen governmental institutions, expand state authority, secure borders, confront militias, implement national agreements, principally the Taef accord and the Baabda declaration, and respect international resolutions mainly UNSCRs 1559 and 1701.

The Cedar Revolution goes on, and it needs the continued assertions of support from our administration and our congress. A clear US commitment will encourage Lebanese leaders, despite the intimidations and threats, to remain steadfast in their quest to rebuild an exemplary democracy, which serves as a necessary catalyst for the democratic evolution of neighboring nations and is essential for the stability of the Middle East.