

Your Excellency, General Joseph Aoun, President of the Lebanese Republic,

You have given us the honor of this visit as Haigazian University celebrates its 70th anniversary.

What began in the late 1940s and formally in 1955 as a modest training program for teachers of Armenian Evangelical schools, has grown into a remarkable national institution. Though we remain a boutique and intimate university in the heart of Beirut, and empowered by faith in God, we are defined by a clear commitment to academic seriousness and sustained by the generous support of a wide community of believers in our mission. Haigazian University has always stood as a unity of opposites: deeply rooted in tradition, yet innovative as early as the 1961 and the famous Cedar Rocket projects. While remaining proud of the heritage of the founders, yet we have always been national and often international in scope.

Haigazian is a product of a visionary partnership between Lebanon and the United States—one that endures to this day. We are especially touched that among us today is Stephanie, a grandchild of one of our original founders, Stephen Philibosian, a living link to the legacy that shaped us and continues to inspire us.

Our academic offerings span Bachelor's and Master's degree programs, as well as Continuing Education and research initiatives. Yet, beyond the curriculum, it is the unique atmosphere of our campus—intellectually vibrant, ethically and spiritually grounded, and deeply human—that truly defines who we are.

We are here today not only to share with you the joy of this anniversary, but to offer a small token of appreciation—a commemorative souvenir to mark this moment. Accompanying me is a representative delegation of our Board of Trustees, Faculty, Staff, and Students. Selecting the students for this occasion was perhaps the most difficult task of all, for how does one choose among hundreds of deserving young minds who embody the promise of Lebanon? Gorun led the Model United Nations conference on campus this year, and Bissan led a major student effort to support the thousands of displaced people around Haigazian during the war of aggression last year.

At Haigazian, we work daily with the nation's greatest resource: its youth. This is no easy task, especially in times when hope seems minimal. Yet, we persist, encouraged by the belief that the future of Lebanon is a shared responsibility. We trust that under your leadership, and with the support of government and all in society alike, we can develop a Lebanon that is stable, and ever-progressing and

even leading toward the highest standards of work, governance, professionalism, ethics, and accountability.

With each small step we aim to raise hope. We assure you, Your Excellency, of our complete and heartfelt partnership with you in the noble journey you are leading with a positive hands-on and persistent approach. With you, we are committed to playing our part in building a Lebanon that is full of promise.

Thank you for honoring us.

Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian

President

Haigazian University

Baabda, May 27, 2025