

Pr Pascal Monin speech: Signature MoU OFP-USJ and GGCC-AUB. Monday, 20 January 2025

Dear Prof. Salim Daccache s.j, Rector of Saint Joseph University of Beirut,

Dear Dr. Fadlo Khuri, president of the American University of Beirut (AUB),

Dear Dr. Simon Kachar, Director of the Good Governance and Citizenship Observatory of the American University of Beirut,

Esteemed Vice-rectors, Provost, deans of faculties, heads of departments, fellow professors and esteemed friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In our nation's darkest times, when most institutions crumbled and hope seemed distant, two beacons of knowledge remained steadfast - Saint Joseph University and the American University of Beirut. Like the Jesuit missionaries who believed in education as the path to enlightenment, we persevered in our mission of promoting good governance and citizenship values.

Today, as glimmers of hope emerge from this long tunnel of challenges, we gather to elevate our collaboration to unprecedented heights.

At the Observatory on Public Service and Good Governance at Saint Joseph University of Beirut, our mission transcends mere institutional reform. We strive for comprehensive state modernization through enhanced administrative procedures, transparency, and citizen engagement. Our work has consistently demonstrated that good governance is not just an aspiration – it's an achievable reality when pursued with dedication and expertise. This achievement would not have been possible without the unwavering support and trust of Rector Daccache, whose vision and leadership have been instrumental in our journey.

This partnership with the Good Governance and Citizenship Observatory of the American University of Beirut represents a strategic alliance built on shared values and complementary strengths.

Together, we bring decades of combined experience, extensive networks, and deep expertise in governance reform. Our collaboration comes at a crucial moment when Lebanon needs strong institutions and restored public trust more than ever.

By joining forces, we aim to:

- Accelerate state rebuilding initiatives through coordinated action and shared resources
- Advocate for contextualized and evidence-based policy reforms that address Lebanon's unique challenges
- Create sustainable governance frameworks that will withstand future pressures
- Empower future generations with the tools for effective citizenship and civic engagement

This partnership exemplifies what we can achieve when Lebanon's leading institutions unite for the common good. Together, we will work tirelessly to build the nation our people deserve and our future generations expect.

Thank you.