

For Immediate Release



AUB to hold panel discussion on UN climate change summit in Durban

Beirut, Lebanon- 16/12/2011 - The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut (AUB) is organizing a panel discussion under the theme: "Was There Any Progress at the United Nations Climate Change Negotiations in Durban?"

The panel will take place on Tuesday 20 December 2011 at 12:00 noon in Auditorium B1, College Hall, AUB, and will be moderated by Karim Makdisi, IFI associate director at IFI, and associate professor of international politics and international environmental policy in the Department of Political Studies and Public Administration, AUB.

(Simultaneous English / Arabic Translation will be available)

Speakers include:

Dr Ibrahim Abdel Gelil , professor of the Academic Chair of Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan and director of the Environmental Management Programme at Arabian Gulf University (Bahrain). From 1997-2002, he was CEO of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency. Abdel Gelil has been at the forefront of Egypt's energy and environment policy, and that of the region more generally, for more than 10 years and has published on this extensively.

Habib Maalouf, president of the Lebanese Environment Party and environmental columnist for the *As-Safir* Lebanese daily. He has been covering the UN Climate Change negotiations since 1992. Maalouf teaches environmental philosophy, and is the author of numerous publications including his most recent book, published in Arabic.

Vahagn Kabakian, head of the Lebanese delegation negotiating in Durban and climate change advisor to the office of the Minister of Environment (MoE). He serves as project manager for the Second National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in the Lebanese MoE. Kabakian has actively participated in climate change negotiations since the 13th Conference of Parties (COP) in Bali, 2007.

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 600 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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