


















Constitutional Positions

By political agreement since Lebanese independence in 1943, the three key constitutional positions are reserved for citizens from specific confessional groups.

<p>President General Michel Sleiman <i>Maronite Christian</i> No political alignment Elected as President by Parliament on 25 May 2008. Formerly the Head of the Lebanese Armed Forces.</p> 	<p>Prime Minister Fouad Sinora <i>Sunni Muslim</i> Future Movement Prime Minister since July 2005. Standing as a candidate in Saïda.</p> 	<p>Parliamentary Speaker Naïbh Berri <i>Shiite Muslim</i> Amal Movement Speaker since November 1992. Standing as a candidate in Zahranÿ.</p> 
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Parliamentary Blocs

The 128-seat Lebanese Parliament currently has two parliamentary blocs: the majority bloc (with 67 Deputies) consists of political parties and affiliated independents referred to as "March 14". The other bloc (with 56 Deputies) consists of political parties and independents affiliated to two coalesced groups, the March 8 coalition and the Reform and Change alliance. At the time the June 7 elections were called, three Deputies are not affiliated to either bloc and there were two vacant seats. This chart refers to numbers of Deputies as of April 2009 and the confessional group to which the party is most closely linked.

March 14 Parliamentary Bloc		March 8 and Reform and Change Parliamentary Bloc	
67 Deputies		56 Deputies	
<p>Future Movement (FM) 27 Deputies <i>Leader: Saad Hariri</i> Mostly Sunni Muslim</p>  		<p>Hezbollah 11 Deputies <i>Leader: Hassan Nasrallah</i> Shiite Muslim</p>  	
<p>Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) 6 Deputies <i>Leader: Walid Jumblatt</i> Druze</p>  		<p>Amal Movement 10 Deputies <i>Leader: Nabih Berri</i> Shiite Muslim</p>  	
<p>Lebanese Forces (LF) 5 Deputies <i>Leader: Dr. Samir Geagea</i> Christian</p>  		<p>Free Patriotic Movement (FPM) 7 Deputies <i>Leader: General Michel Aoun</i> Christian</p>  	
<p>Kateab (Phalange) 1 Deputy <i>Leader: President Amin Gemayel</i> Christian</p>  		<p>Tashnak 2 Deputies <i>Leader: Hovig Mekhitarian</i> Armenian Christian</p>  	
<p>Democratic Left Movement (DLM) 1 Deputy Christian</p>	<p>Democratic Renewal Movement (DRM) 1 Deputy Christian</p>	<p>Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP) 2 Deputies Secular</p> 	
<p>Ramgavar 1 Deputy Armenian Christian</p>	<p>Hanshak 1 Deputy Armenian Christian</p>	<p>Nasserist Popular Movement 1 Deputy Sunni</p>	<p>Arab Socialist Baath Party 1 Deputy Sunni</p>
<p>Independent Deputies affiliated to the March 14 bloc 24 Deputies (16 Christian, 4 Sunni, 2 Armenian, 1 Druze, 1 Alawite)</p>		<p>Independent Deputies affiliated to the M8 and C&R bloc 22 Deputies (13 Christian, 3 Sunni, 4 Shiite, 1 Druze, 1 Alawite)</p>	
<p>The March 14 bloc also includes non-parliamentary political parties, including the Lebanese Option Group (Shiite), the National Bloc Party and the National Liberal Party (both Christian).</p> <p>The March 8 and Change & Reform bloc also includes non-parliamentary political parties such as Marada (Christian) and the Lebanese Democratic Party (Druze).</p>			

The Council of Ministers

The Lebanese Cabinet is composed of 30 Ministers, with portfolios distributed equally between Christian and Muslim confessions. Following the May 2008 Doha Agreement, the current Cabinet has sixteen Ministers affiliated to March 14, nine Ministers affiliated to the March 8/C&R bloc and three non-affiliated Ministers who were nominated by President Sleiman. Under Article 65 of the Lebanese Constitution, the Council of Ministers must have a two-thirds majority to decide on 'national issues' such as the budget, international treaties, the election law, the dissolution of Parliament etc.

Prime Minister Fouad Sinora <i>FM</i> Sunni	Justice Ibrahim Najjar <i>LF</i> Greek Orthodox	Economy Mohamad Safadi <i>Ind</i> Sunni	Education Bahia Hariri <i>FM</i> Sunni	Finance Mohamad Chatah <i>FM</i> Sunni	Deputy P M I. Abu Jamra <i>FPM</i> Greek Orthodox	Foreign Affairs Fawzi Salloukh <i>Amal</i> Shiite	Agriculture Elias Skaff <i>Ind.</i> Greek Catholic	Youth & Sport Talal Arslan <i>LD</i> Druze	Interior Ziyad Baroud <i>Non-Affiliated</i> Maronite
Information Tarek Mitri <i>Ind.</i> Greek Orthodox	Public Work Ghazi Aridi <i>PSP</i> Druze	Environment Antoine Karam <i>LF</i> Maronite	Culture Tammam Salam <i>Ind.</i> Sunni	Displaced Raymond Audi <i>Ind.</i> Greek Catholic	Labour Mohamad Fneish <i>Hezbollah</i> Shiite	Energy & Water Alain Tabourian <i>Tashnag</i> Armenian Ortho.	Telecoms Gebran Bassil <i>FPM</i> Maronite	Health Mohamad Kalifeh <i>Amal</i> Shiite	Defence Elias Murr <i>Non-Affiliated</i> Greek Orthodox
Admin Reform Ib. Shamseddine <i>Ind.</i> Shiite	Tourism Elie Marouni <i>Kataeb</i> Maronite	State Nassib Lahoud <i>DFM</i> Maronite	State Khaled Qabbani <i>FM</i> Sunni	State Wael Abou Faour <i>PSP</i> Druze	State Jean Ogassapian <i>Ind.</i> Armenian Ortho.	State Ali Qanso <i>SSNP</i> Shiite	Industry Ghazi Zoayter <i>Amal</i> Shiite	Social Affairs Mario Aoun <i>FPM</i> Maronite	State Youssef Taqla <i>Non-Affiliated</i> Greek Orthodox