

**Declaration of Jad Tabet President of the Lebanese Federation of Engineers & Architects
at UIA Region II Meeting on May 12, 2021**

I would like first to thank Vice President Nikos Fintikakis as well as the Greek Chamber of Architects for inviting us to this very important meeting. Allow me to make an important declaration in the name of the Lebanese section about a regrettable event that affects not only our section but also UIA governance.

As you all know the Lebanese section is no longer able to make transfers abroad due to the financial crisis in Lebanon and the capital control measures taken by the Lebanese government. Consequently, we send to UIA a request to exempt our Lebanese section from the fees due for years 2020 and 2021. We were grateful to receive a positive answer from UIA Council and later on invoices dated April 23 clearly stating that our section is exempted from the due for the years 2020 and 2021.

However, we were surprised to receive lately a letter from UIA Secretary General cancelling the exemption and requesting us to pay the fees for 2020 and 2021 before May 14.

As everyone knows, a terrible blast hit Beirut on the 4th of August 2020 affecting one third of the Lebanese capital and causing considerable damages, hundreds of deaths and thousands of wounded. The Lebanese section was and still is very active in the recovery process. All UIA sections expressed their solidarity with Lebanese people and Lebanese architects offering to help us in this dramatic situation.

Unfortunately, I am now forced to conclude that this solidarity seems to be only verbal. Lebanese architects are not beggars. We have always paid our duty to UIA and we have always served it as an active member. Now Lebanon is not given the possibility to take part in the life of UIA since we are considered as second rank members or second category members. Does this mean that from now on, UIA sections would be classified as first category and second category? This is unacceptable by all means!

We have always been proud to be part of UIA and I am personally directly concerned since my father was a founding member of UIA in Lausanne. However, if this awkward situation is not corrected, we will have to reconsider our position and our relationship with UIA.