

**Lebanon Prepares to Hold First-Ever Presidential Debate on:
January 6, 2025
For Immediate Release**

Lebanon is set to witness a historic milestone with its first-ever presidential debate, scheduled for January 6, 2025, just three days before the parliamentary session to elect the President of the Republic. This landmark event is spearheaded by the Munathara Initiative under the banner "Lebanon Decides." Drawing on its extensive experience in organizing electoral debates across the region, Munathara is ensuring the debates will adhere to the highest standards of transparency, fairness, and inclusivity.

The Munathara Initiative will directly oversee all aspects of the debates, including sending official invitations to individuals whose candidacies have been publicly announced in the press.

Key Features of the Presidential Debates:

Equality and Fairness: The debate will adhere to international standards to guarantee equal opportunities for all candidates, including equal speaking time and consistent production quality in terms of sound, lighting, and broadcast.

Audience Engagement: In addition to structured candidate responses, members of the public will have the opportunity to submit questions directly to the candidates.

Unified Broadcast Feed: The debate will be broadcasted live through a single, free feed available to all television channels, radio stations, and online platforms, ensuring nationwide accessibility.

Professional Moderation: The debate will be moderated by seasoned journalist Zaven Kouyoumdjian, leveraging his extensive media expertise and prior collaboration with the Munathara Initiative since 2021.

Participation and Format:

There will be one debate featuring all invited candidates who accept the invitation to participate. Each candidate will respond to unified questions within a 99-second timeframe, with additional opportunities to address questions from the audience. Detailed debate rules will be announced at a later stage.

Call to Civil Society and Media Partners:

The Munathara Initiative invites civil society organizations to participate in awareness campaigns around the debate. Media outlets interested in broadcasting the debate are encouraged to register by emailing media@munathara.com.

Contact Information:

- For partnership inquiries: paul@munathara.com | For media inquiries: media@munathara.com

The Lebanon Decides Initiative marks a transformative step in Lebanon's democratic journey, offering citizens a unique opportunity to engage with presidential candidates and make informed decisions about the country's future.