

THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

75th Pre-Sessional Working Group (03 October - 07 October 2016)

Lebanon

Civil Society Submission on the right of every child to acquire a nationality under Article 7 CRC

1 July 2016

Introduction

1. The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (the Institute)¹ welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding Lebanon's compliance with Article 7 of the CRC, which states that every child has the right to acquire a nationality.
2. This submission highlights challenges in the realisation of the right of every child to acquire a nationality and the avoidance of childhood statelessness in Lebanon as a result of discrimination, poor implementation of the law and challenges related to birth registration faced in particular by the Syrian refugees, but also by other groups in the country. In light of the Committee's previous recommendations to Lebanon on birth registration² as well as those from the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on the ability of women to acquire, transmit and retain nationality on an equal basis with men,³ and relevant recommendations issued by states to Lebanon during the second UPR cycle on removing discrimination from the

¹ The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion is an independent non-profit organisation committed to promoting the human rights of stateless persons and fostering inclusion to ultimately end statelessness. Addressing childhood statelessness is one of the core thematic priorities of the Institute. The Institute has made thematic submissions to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the child's right to a nationality and the protection of stateless children in a number of countries including Serbia, South Africa, Estonia, Nepal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Sierra Leone. The Institute has also developed a Toolkit to assist civil society organisations prepare submissions to the Committee under this theme. For more information, see: <http://www.institutesi.org/ourwork/children.php>.

² Committee Rights of the Child recommendations 2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3

³ CEDAW/C/LBN/4-5

nationality law⁴, the importance of the eradication of statelessness as expressed by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees #IBelong campaign,⁵ and the relevance of Goal 16.9 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which aims to “by 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration”,⁶ the Institute hopes the Committee will **raise the issue of realising the right of every child to acquire a nationality in its List of Issues for Lebanon and address recommendations to the Government of Lebanon to further prevent and reduce the problem of childhood statelessness in the country.**

3. This submission draws on the research carried out by the Institute in Lebanon and the Institute’s expertise on statelessness and the right to a nationality at global level. The Institute is committed to helping promote children’s right to a nationality, establishing it as one of its five thematic priorities. As part of this work, the Institute has developed a Toolkit, to strengthen civil society engagement on children's right to a nationality with the Committee on the Rights of the Child.⁷ The Institute also sits on the Steering Committee of the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights (the Global Campaign), a coalition of international, regional and national organizations that promotes gender equality in nationality laws, so that women and men can confer, acquire, change and retain their nationality on an equal basis.⁸
4. This submission has been structured to highlight issues which may be included in the List of Issues by including them in text boxes under each substantive section, and recommendations which may be drawn on for the Committees Concluding Observations by listing them at the very end of the text. The Lebanese nationality law is annexed below for ease of access. This submission highlights challenges in the realisation of the right of every child to acquire a nationality and the avoidance of childhood statelessness in Lebanon as a result of discrimination, poor implementation of the law and challenges related to birth registration, faced in particular by the Syrian refugees. In light of the Committee’s previous recommendations to Lebanon on the issue, the importance of the eradication of statelessness as expressed by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees #IBelong campaign,⁹ and the relevance of Goal 16.9 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which aims to “by 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration”,¹⁰ the submitting organisations hope the Committee will **raise the issue of realising the right of every child to acquire a nationality in its List of Issues for Lebanon and address recommendations to the Government of Lebanon to further prevent and reduce the problem of childhood statelessness in the country.**

⁴ The Netherlands, Norway, the UK and Canada made recommendations for the removal of gender discrimination in Lebanese nationality, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, A/HRC/16/18, para 82.18

⁵ The UNHCR #IBelong campaign aims to eradicate statelessness by the year 2024, see further: <http://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/>.

⁶ A/RES/70/1.

⁷ This Toolkit can be found at: <http://www.statelessnessandhumanrights.org/>

⁸ See the Global Campaigns website for more information: www.equalnationalityrights.org

⁹ The UNHCR #IBelong campaign aims to eradicate statelessness by the year 2024, see further: <http://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/>.

¹⁰ A/RES/70/1.

The Report of Lebanon to the Committee

5. Lebanon's combined 4th – 5th periodic report does provide an overview of its performance in relation to its Article 7 CRC obligations in paragraph 63-71, in relation to the challenges it faces and efforts it has made with regard to the registration of births and ensuring nationality for children born in the country. Accordingly, the Institute notes positively, the efforts taken to increase birth registration to 99.6%. However, it must be noted that the most vulnerable and marginalised are the most likely to not have their births registered, which in turn undermines their access to nationality. For example, there are approximately 40,000 individuals who are *maktoum*¹¹ in the country, those who were not registered. It is not clear how many of these are children, but this status is inherited by children.
6. The state report in paragraph 65 sets out that a one year deadline for registration is important to ensure that parents understand the importance of registration. While the Institute acknowledges that it is important to educate parents on the importance of birth registration, it is of paramount importance that children are not penalised for the oversights of their parents. Therefore, a careful balance needs to be struck between prescribing a time-limit and ensuring that all children have their right to birth registration and a nationality respected.
7. The report also recognises in paragraph 68 that the influx of refugees from Syria has added to the complexity scale of the challenge of ensuring every child's birth is registered and nationality confirmed. While the state has raised these challenges in the report, it does not set out how it intends to address them to ensure the realisation of every child's right to birth registration and to a nationality, as prescribed by Article 7.
8. The report also refers in paragraph 71 to a case going through the courts that was made in 2009 that would allow Lebanese women to transfer nationality to their children if their foreign husband dies. They state that no decision is yet to be made on this issue.
9. Finally, the periodic report is silent on childhood statelessness in Lebanon, despite its widespread prevalence in the country (see below). CRC Article 7 obliges states to safeguard against childhood statelessness and to ensure that every child has the right to acquire a nationality. Furthermore, childhood statelessness has a detrimental impact in terms of the child's access to a range of other rights under the CRC. In this context, the state party's silence in relation to childhood statelessness in the country is disappointing. The state report does not explain whether Lebanon has taken any steps to implement the recommendations provided in the previous review on birth registration and equal nationality rights.

10. In light of the above information, the Committee is urged to ask Lebanon in its List of Issues and also in its review, to further elaborate on its periodic report as follows:

- a. **On what basis does the state justify the one year deadline for birth registrations, and what steps has the state taken to ensure that children whose births are not registered within one year are not denied the right to birth registration or a nationality?**

¹¹ Maktoumeen means those who are not registered anywhere in Lebanese records, and are therefore either at risk of statelessness or stateless.

- b. What steps does the state intend to take to address the challenges emerging from the Syrian refugee crisis, to ensure that the right of all children born in the country to birth registration and a nationality is protected?
- c. Does the state have any information to share with the Committee in relation to the child's right to acquire a nationality in Lebanon and childhood statelessness in the country? If not, why does the state not maintain adequate information on this important issue?

Lebanon's International Legal Framework and Statelessness in Lebanon

11. As a state party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Lebanon's obligations in relation to the child's right to a nationality and the prevention of statelessness derive from:
 - a. Article 2, which obligates states to respect and ensure the rights set forth in the Convention *"irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status."*
 - b. Article 3 which obligates states to treat the best interests of the child as a primary consideration, as well as Article 6 (the child's right to life, survival and development) and Article 12 (the child's right to have his or her own views and to participation).
 - c. Article 7 which states that a child *"shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents ... in particular where the child would otherwise be stateless."*
 - d. Article 8 which calls for States Parties to *"undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations...."*
12. Lebanon is also party to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which all entrench the right to a nationality and prohibit discrimination (on various grounds) in relation to access to nationality. These various treaties give further context to CRC Articles 7, 2 and 3, which collectively prohibit any form of discrimination against children or their parents or guardians, which undermines their right to acquire a nationality.
13. It must be noted that Lebanon has in place, a reservation to Article 9 CEDAW, which prohibits gender discrimination in relation to acquisition, conferral, transfer or retention of nationality. However, as stated by the CEDAW, Article 9 among others is *"central to the object and purpose of the Convention and that the reservations impact negatively on the enjoyment by women of their*

*rights.*¹² Therefore, it is our position that the maintenance of nationality laws which discriminate on the basis of gender are themselves in conflict with the object and purpose of the CEDAW and with the general obligation of all state parties to “agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women.”¹³ Given that no corresponding reservation is in place on CRC 7, it is our position that Lebanon’s obligation to prevent gender discrimination that undermines the child’s right to acquire a nationality is uncontested.

14. Lebanon has not acceded to the Refugee Convention, the 1954 Statelessness Convention or the 1961 Statelessness Convention.
15. Although the exact number of the stateless population is unknown, there are estimated to be tens of thousands of stateless persons living in Lebanon, possibly reaching hundreds of thousands. There are many causes behind statelessness in the country,¹⁴ but the two main enduring causes are gender discrimination in the Lebanese nationality law and challenges with regard to birth registration. These both will be discussed further in the section below. Further causes of childhood statelessness in Lebanon are:
 - a. Lebanon does not implement Article 1.3 of Decree No15 of Lebanese nationality law which states that ‘Every person born in the Greater Lebanon territory of unknown parents or parents of unknown nationality’ is Lebanese. This in theory is an excellent legislative safeguard that could ensure that no child is born stateless, however it is not being implemented.
 - b. There has not been an official census since 1932, which was the basis for the initial registration of citizens. Those who were not included in the initial civil registration records have found it difficult to obtain nationality since, and this has left generations of families excluded from accessing Lebanese nationality. Many of these cases have been ‘under study’ for decades.¹⁵
 - c. Lebanon historically has hosted many long-term refugee communities. Naturalization as a Lebanese does not exist unless there is a marriage to a Lebanese male citizen, with Lebanese women denied the right to confer to non-national spouses. Therefore many from these communities have been unable to access Lebanese nationality, and may have lost links to their country of origin.
 - d. The risk of childhood statelessness in Lebanon has complicated and increased due to the Syrian refugee crisis, where the nexus of gaps in nationality law, administrative policies and displacement can create new cases of statelessness. There are now an estimated 1.5

¹² The CEDAW Committee has noted this on a number of occasions and in Concluding Recommendations for State Parties under review, including in CEDAW/C/ARE/CO/1, para 16.

¹³ Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Eighteenth and nineteenth sessions), A/53/38/Rev.1, page 47.

¹⁴ Frontiers Ruwad, INVISIBLE CITIZENS: A Legal Study on Statelessness in Lebanon, 2009, access at http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/sites/srlan/files/fileuploads/Invisible_Citizens_-_A_Legal_Study_on_Statelessness_in_Lebanon_Nov_2009.pdf

¹⁵ For more information see vanWaas. L, Citizenship, Statelessness and the Numbers Game in Lebanon, Tilburg Law School, 2014, access at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2550734

million from Syria in Lebanon, a significant percentage of the population, which has put significant strain on the administrative sector of civil registration. The risk of statelessness for displaced families increases significantly during displacement.¹⁶

16. While denial of the child's right to a nationality and resultant statelessness is in itself a cause of significant concern, this also leads to further discrimination and the denial of other human rights that children are entitled to. Accessing fundamental rights as a stateless person in Lebanon is often significantly challenging. Stateless individuals for example, may face obstacles in accessing public healthcare, formal employment, higher education and documentation. The ability to move freely is also severely impeded as there are many checkpoints across the country and therefore the stateless individual may fear arrest and/or detention.¹⁷
17. Significantly in this regard, the Lebanese government has prohibited local *Mokhtars*¹⁸ from issuing a '*Taaref*' document, which used to be the only form of identification a stateless individual in Lebanon could obtain. This now means that stateless individuals have no documents they can obtain that would clarify their identity.

18. In light of the above information, the Committee is urged to ask Lebanon in its List of Issues and also in its review:

- a. On what basis does Lebanon continue to justify maintaining its reservation to CEDAW Article 9?**
- b. Will Lebanon consider taking the necessary steps to accede to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions, the Refugee Convention?**
- c. Is Lebanon taking steps to ensure that stateless children have access to all fundamental rights, most predominantly the right to access public education and healthcare?**
- d. Why isn't Article 1.3 of Decree No 15 being implemented by the State? What impediments stand in the way, and does it intend to address them?**
- e. In the absence of an official census, what steps is the state taking to identify stateless and at risk of stateless persons in the country?**
- f. What is Lebanon doing to ensure the situation of the 'under study' population is resolved?**

Birth Registration

19. Failing to obtain documents in the civil registration procedure places an individual at risk of not being able to confirm their nationality. The birth registration document serves as a record of date of birth, parents, nationality, and provides a legal identity.¹⁹ Therefore in a *jus sanguinis*²⁰ country

¹⁶ See UNHCR, UNHCR Statelessness Update, 2014

¹⁷ For more information on the consequences of statelessness in Lebanon see Frontiers Ruwad, INVISIBLE CITIZENS: A Legal Study on Statelessness in Lebanon, 2009, access at http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/sites/srlan/files/fileuploads/Invisible_Citizens_-_A_Legal_Study_on_Statelessness_in_Lebanon_Nov_2009.pdf

¹⁸ Local mayors who play a significant role in issuing documents

¹⁹ Lebanese Law 07/12/1951 Registers of Personal Status Legislations, Article 13

²⁰ A country where nationality is passed on through blood links

like Lebanon it becomes an essential document for an individual to prove their nationality. The civil registration system in Lebanon, particularly the birth registration procedure, is complex and often expensive and therefore at times individuals and families are not able to access documents. The CRC committee in 2006 has urged Lebanon to “ensure that all children within its territory, including the children of Palestinian refugees without identity documents, are registered immediately after birth”,²¹ recognising the enduring problems in access to birth registration for many people in the Lebanese territory. Although some positive steps have been taken, such as allowing the use of family booklets for some of the birth registration process for Syrian Refugees,²² these steps have not been implemented adequately. There are several steps to register births, of which the first three need to be completed within one year of the baby’s birth:²³

- a. receiving a notification from the birth attendant (birth notification)
- b. obtaining a birth certificate from the relevant *mokhtar*,
- c. registering at the personal status department that includes the *Nofous*.

For non-Lebanese, the parents will then need to follow the two further steps:

- d. certifying the birth certificate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:
- e. completing the full registration at the relevant Embassy.

20. These steps can be complicated for those living on Lebanese territory, and this is especially the case due to the one year deadline. If this deadline is not met, a costly and lengthy court case needs to be filed. There are many Lebanese, who have been labelled ‘*Maktoum*’,²⁴ who have not been able to obtain a birth registration for their children and therefore are left at risk of statelessness. Many of the *Maktoum* eventually do become stateless.

21. In addition, these steps are particularly difficult to follow for refugees living in the country, for example the estimated 41,000 babies born²⁵ to refugees from Syria since 2011. In an often precarious and particularly vulnerable situation, maintaining documents and accessing complex civil registration procedures can be particularly difficult. The parents are often unaware of the Lebanese procedures and do not prioritize registering births, falling beyond the one year deadline. This is particularly heightened due to the fact that procedures are rarely uniform across the country, and new policies are often being introduced. Those who do attempt to register births do not always have the necessary documents (for example ID documents or marriage certificates) in order to fulfil the requirements of the process. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has found that 92% of refugees interviewed were not able to complete the full five steps.²⁶

22. In light of the above information, the Committee is urged to ask Lebanon in its List of Issues and also in its review:

²¹ Committee Rights of the Child recommendations 2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3

²² NRC, Update on Birth Registration for Refugees from Syria, 2014, file:///C:/Users/zahra/Downloads/NRC_BirthRegistration_Update_January2014_FINAL%20(1).pdf

²³ These regulations can be found in Lebanese Law 07/12/1951 Registers of Personal Status Legislations, Chapter Two

²⁴ vanWaas. L, Citizenship, Statelessness and the Numbers Game in Lebanon, Tilburg Law School, 2014, access at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2550734

²⁵ See UNHCR, UNHCR Statelessness Update, 2014

²⁶ There are many further problems that impede access to birth registration. This is detailed out in NRCs update on birth registration for refugees from Syria, which can be found file:///C:/Users/zahra/Downloads/NRC_BirthRegistration_Update_January2014_FINAL.pdf

- a. What steps has Lebanon taken to strengthen its birth registration system to ensure that no child is left unregistered in line with its obligations under the CRC and the SDDGs? (See CRC Recommendation to Indonesia 2014: 'The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all children born in Indonesia are registered and issued birth certificates, regardless of their nationality, religion and status at birth, and that birth registration is facilitated and free of charge everywhere and under all circumstances.').
- b. What steps has Lebanon taken to implement the 2006 CRC recommendation, para. 38 that 'the Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all children within its territory, including the children of Palestinian refugees without identity documents, are registered immediately after birth'?
- c. What steps has Lebanon taking to ensure birth registration for refugees?
- d. What steps are being taken to simplify and streamline birth registration procedures so they are implemented in a uniform manner?
- e. What steps are being taken to increase capacity of authorities responsible for birth registration and address any discriminatory attitudes they may have towards vulnerable groups such as the *Maktoum* and refugees?

Gender Discrimination

23. The inability of women to transfer their nationality to their children on an equal basis as men is a problem in 27 countries worldwide. The child's right to a nationality can be denied and Statelessness can be the result of mothers not being able to transmit their nationality, when the father is unable to transfer his nationality for one of many reasons or is unknown. Gender discrimination in nationality laws can perpetuate statelessness across generations, with children rendered stateless through such provisions growing up to be adults who have no nationality to pass on to their own children. The consequences on children goes beyond the risk of statelessness, and could also include consequences such as increased vulnerability to child marriages and trauma and anxiety.²⁷
24. Article 1.1 of the Lebanese nationality law states that '*Every person born to a Lebanese father*' is considered to be Lebanese. Consequently, Lebanese mothers cannot transfer their nationality to their children. This places many children who are unable to obtain the nationality of their father at heightened risk of statelessness.
25. In 2006, the CRC made the following recommendation to Lebanon regarding the issue of gender discrimination in nationality laws. Paragraph 39 stated that '*The Committee reiterates its concern that citizenship is transmitted solely through a child's father, which can result in statelessness, for example, among children born to Lebanese mothers and refugee fathers.*' The issue of gender discrimination in Lebanon's nationality law is frequently addressed by other human rights mechanisms as well. In 2014 for example the CEDAW recommended that Lebanon '*withdraw its reservation made upon accession to the Convention regarding article 9 (2), repeal Decree No. 15*

²⁷ For more information on the issue of gender inequality in nationality laws see: Equality Now, The State We're In: Ending Sexism in Nationality Laws, 2015, access at http://www.equalitynow.org/sites/default/files/NationalityReport_EN.pdf, ISIs Gender Discrimination Factsheet, 2016, access at www.institutesi.org/gender_factsheet.pdf, and the website of the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights, www.equalnationalityrights.org

of 1925 on Lebanese Nationality and adopt legislation to ensure women equal rights with men to pass on their nationality to their foreign spouses and children.²⁸ To date there has been no movement to address this issue, and these recommendations have not been implemented. In 2012, the Council of Ministers formed a ministerial committee to study this issue. They decided that the law would not be amended but that several measures/ moderating steps might be taken in respect of the husband and children of a Lebanese woman married to a foreign man in access to rights. A decision on this is yet to be made.

26. In addition, the risk of childhood statelessness as a result of gender discrimination is further complicated by the Syria crisis. Many Lebanese women were married to Syrian men, often without having registered formally their marriages or having lost their marriage certificate in the crisis. When the child is unable to confirm that their father is Syrian, and they cannot obtain the nationality from their Lebanese mother, they are at heightened risk of becoming stateless.

27. In light of the above information, the Committee is urged to ask Lebanon in its List of Issues and also in its review:

- a. On what basis does Lebanon continue to deny women equal rights with men to convey nationality to their children, and what steps are Lebanon taking to address gender discrimination in its nationality laws, and to ensure that the child's right to a nationality is not undermined? (See CRC Recommendation to Brunei in 2016: *'The Committee urges the State party to: Review the Brunei Nationality Act and other relevant legislation relating to nationality to ensure that Bruneian women can transfer nationality automatically to their children'*).**
- b. What steps has Lebanon taken to implement the previous recommendations of the CRC and CEDAW on this issue?**
- c. What necessary steps are Lebanon taking to ensure that all children of Lebanese women on their territory can access rights, especially public schools and healthcare, in accordance with recommendations made by the Ministerial Committee tasked with this issue in 2012? Under what timeframe will the 2012 recommendations be implemented?**

Recommendations

28. Based on the content of this submission, the following recommendations are made which we hope the Committee will consider in urging the Government of Lebanon to ensure the right of every child to acquire a nationality:

- 1) Implement in full, Article 1.3 of the nationality law that guarantees the right to acquire a nationality for all otherwise stateless children born in Lebanon.**
- 2) Take steps to reform the nationality law so to ensure that children of Lebanese mothers obtain Lebanese nationality on an equal basis with children of Lebanese men.**

²⁸ CEDAW/C/LBN/4-5 paragraph 114

- 3) Take steps to reform the nationality law so to ensure Lebanese women have the equal ability to confer nationality to non-national spouses as Lebanese men, facilitating the right of the children of Lebanese women and non-national spouses to know and be cared for by non-national fathers.
- 4) Fully implement the recommendations made by the Ministerial Committee in 2012.
- 5) Implement information campaigns and other measures to disseminate information about the birth registration procedures to the displaced populations.
- 6) Ensure there are coherent procedures for the birth registration procedures that are uniform across the country.
- 7) Ensure facilitated access to birth registration for vulnerable refugees who are unable to fulfil the criteria.
- 8) Ensure that all officials who have the responsibility of registering births are adequately capacitated and trained, on the content of Lebanon's national and international legal obligations, and ensure that any prejudicial attitudes such officials may have towards vulnerable groups including the *Maktoum* and refugees are adequately addressed.
- 9) Remove Lebanon's reservation to Article 9 of the CEDAW.
- 10) Accede to the Refugee Convention, 1954 Statelessness Convention and 1961 Statelessness Convention

Annex: Lebanese nationality law (English Translation)

Decree No15 on Lebanese Nationality 19 January 1925

Amended by

Regulation N°160 dated 16 / 07 / 1934

Regulation N°122 L . R . dated 19 / 06 / 1939

Law of 11 / 1 / 1960

General Saray, High Commissioner of the Republic of France to the countries of Syria, Greater Lebanon, the Alaouite and the Druzes' Djebel;

Acting upon:

Decree dated 23 November 1920;

Regulation N°2825 dated 20 August 1924;

The proposal of the Secretary General;

Decrees as follows:

Article 1

Is considered Lebanese:

Every person born of a Lebanese father.

Every person born in the Greater Lebanon territory and did not acquire a foreign nationality, upon birth, by affiliation.

Every person born in the Greater Lebanon territory of unknown parents or parents of unknown nationality.

Article 2

The illegitimate child whose nationality has not been established during his minority shall have the Lebanese nationality if one of his parents in respect of whom affiliation is first established and if the proof of affiliation regarding both the father and the mother results from a single contract or judgment, the child shall acquire the nationality of the father should the latter be Lebanese .

Article 3

(The text of this article has been abrogated by article one of regulation 122 L . R . dated 19 / 06 / 1939).

Article 4

The spouse of a foreigner, who has become a Lebanese citizen , as well as the children of full age of such a foreigner , may , if they so request , obtain the Lebanese nationality , without satisfying the residence condition , whether by virtue of the regulation giving this nationality to the husband , the father or the mother or in a special regulation . Likewise, the minor children of a father acquiring the Lebanese nationality , or a mother acquiring the said nationality and who remained alive after the death of the father , shall become Lebanese unless they reject this nationality within the year following their majority.

Article 5

(As amended by the law dated 11 / 01 / 1960)

The foreign woman married to a Lebanese shall, upon her request, become Lebanese after one year from the date of registration of the marriage in the Civil Status Office.

Article 6

(As amended by the law dated 11 / 01 / 1960)

The Lebanese woman who gets married with a foreigner remains Lebanese until she requests the striking off of her registration in the census records on account of acquiring the nationality of her husband .

Article 7

(As amended by the law dated 11 / 01 / 1960)

The woman who has lost her Lebanese nationality as a result of her marriage with a foreigner may, upon her request, recover this nationality after the dissolution of her marriage

Lebanese female citizens who were married prior to the 1932 census and who have lost their nationality by marriage and did not have any record in the census registers of that date, may, subsequent to the dissolution of their marriage, obtain a court judgment ordering their registration should it be established that, on 30 August 1924, they were on the Lebanese territory. As concerns those who were residing abroad at that date, they may recover their Lebanese nationality under article 2 of Law dated 31 January 1946.

Article 8

Shall cease to be Lebanese:

The Lebanese subject having acquired a foreign nationality should this acquisition take place pursuant to an authorization granted by a regulation issued by the Head of the State. The Lebanese who accepts a public office from a foreign government and maintains such office despite that he has been instructed by the Lebanese government to abandon it within a specified period.

Article 9

Examination of lawsuits relating to nationality falls within the exclusive jurisdiction of courts of law.

Temporary Provisions

Article 10

1st While preserving the option rights provided for in the Peace Treaty signed at Lausanne in 1923 , is considered Lebanese every person born on the Greater Lebanon territory of a Lebanese father also born in the said territory and was on November 1914 an Ottoman subject

Article 11

Children and married women having acquired a foreign nationality, in accordance with article 36 of the Lausanne Treaty, may obtain, after investigation, the Lebanese nationality by decision of the Head of State provided they reside in the Lebanese territory and submit a declaration to this effect within the year following maturity or dissolution of marriage.

Article 12

All provisions contrary to the provisions of the present regulation are hereby repealed.

Article 13

The Secretary General and the Governor of Greater Lebanon, each within his jurisdiction, shall implement the present regulation which shall come into force as of the date of its publication in the official bulletin where the affairs of the Higher Commissariat are published.