**Safeguarding Lebanon’s Glaciers**

***An Initiative by the Ministry of Energy and Water and the University of Balamand***

On the Occasion of World Water Day, 22 March 2025

On the occasion of World Water Day 2025, themed "Glacier Protection", the Ministry of Energy and Water and the University of Balamand emphasize the critical importance of preserving Lebanon’s eternal glaciers.

Located at Kornet El Sawda, the highest peak in the Near East at 3,080 meters, these glaciers—known as Tallajat—serve as a vital water reserve for the country. However, they are rapidly shrinking due to the impacts of climate change and human activities. Situated near the iconic Cedars of God, these natural formations require immediate intervention to ensure their sustainability for future generations.

The Ministry of Energy and Water, in partnership with the University of Balamand as a co-host of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Program of the UNESCO-ECOMED Academy, and in collaboration with UN agencies (ESCWA, FAO, UNDP), the European Union, and the Lebanese National Committee of UNESCO-IHP, are proud to launch a proactive initiative to:

* **Protect the eternal glaciers of Kornet El Sawda, securing their role as essential hydrological reserves.**
* **Monitor and analyze the impact of climatic variables on glaciers using advanced scientific methodologies.**
* **Raise public awareness on the importance of preserving these irreplaceable natural assets.**
* **Expand the scope of the EMME Climate Initiative to include glaciers.**
* **Promote education and community engagement to foster collective action for glacier conservation.**

The Ministry of Energy and Water and the University of Balamand invite all stakeholders to join this initiative and participate in the World Water Day event to be held at the University of Balamand on April 29, 2025. This gathering will bring together international experts to address challenges and develop strategies for securing critical water resources.

Join us to preserve this unique natural heritage of the Near East!

Signed,

**Jeo Saddi   Elias L. Warrak**

**Minister of Energy and Water   President, University of Balamand**