

## APPENDIX C

### List of Institutions

**Banque du Liban** (Riad Salameh director) helped real estate companies to buy unsold flats/buildings and can intervene with loans and incitation. (The BDL controls bank liquidity by adjusting discount rates, by intervening in the open market, as well as by determining credit facilities to banks and financial institutions).

**DGU**, Directorate General of Urban planning, elaborate plans and regulations, but as recommendations, that needs mandatory reinforcement.

**HCUP**, Higher Council for Urban Planning, gives approval of the plans and regulations elaborated by the DGU. Its powers include the authorization of requests for constructing Grands Ensembles and high-rises. This latest power has sometimes been regarded as unconstitutional, since the HCUP is supposed to be only a "technical advisory body", and, is mainly composed of directors-general, questioning its competence in taking decisions regarding allowing certain constructions or exceptions.

**CDR**, the Council for Development and Reconstruction was established through Decree No. 5 dated 31st January 1977 . The responsibilities of the CDR were specified to three main tasks: complying a plan and a time schedule for the resumption of reconstruction and of development, guaranteeing the funding of projects presented, supervising their execution and utilization by contributing to the process of rehabilitation of public institutions, thus enabling it to assume responsibility for the execution of a number of projects under the supervision of the Council of Ministers. It is directly accountable to the Council of Ministers through the Prime Minister, thus "evading the administrative routine matters which had ceased to be followed in order to accelerate the reconstruction process and to allow adequate time for the reconstruction and building of public institutions that were devastated during the events".

**MoSA**, Ministry of Social Affairs.

**PCH**, Public Corporation for Housing, since 1996 (Rony Lahoud director), in charge of helping low- and middle-income citizens to buy homes of their own, and of the housing loans, that sustain the old rent tenants risking eviction. It works with banks to offer attractively low interest rates to those who qualify, under very strict requirements, (between 21 and 65 years of age at conclusion of loan repayments, employment duration of 2 years, plus a monthly family income ceiling of 10 times the \$450 monthly minimum wage, in addition to limitations of the size of the financed dwelling (200 square meters) for a low loan ceiling).

**Banque de l'Habitat**, is a mixed company between the Lebanese Government and the Private Sector (Banks, insurance companies, individual investor). Its total paid up Capital was set up to 100 Billion LBP (80% owned by the private sector & 20% by the public sector). The Bank's main mission is to lend individuals especially those who have limited or average income, to buy a house, build their own, expand and renovate, as well as to finance the housing cooperatives.