

**Speech of Rector Salim Daccache in the opening of the conference of Germany
republic Ambassador February 15, 2018 organized by CEMAM, “Polyvalent”
Room, Campus CSH**

Mr. Ambassador, It is a joy for us today to have you here as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to speak to us about Germany in the Middle East and the impact of science diplomacy. We know that the science diplomacy has become an umbrella term to describe a formal or informal technical, research-based, academic or engineering exchange. It refers to scientific collaborations among nations to address common problems and to build constructive international partnerships. Mr. Ambassador Excellency, you are not far from our near eastern world since you were born and raised in Egypt and Iran in 1964. After studying law at the University of Konstanz, you joined the Federal Foreign Service in 1991. Assignments in Sanaa, Tehran, Geneva, Beirut, and lastly in New York as Legal Adviser of the German Mission to the UN during Germany's recent tenure on the UN Security Council (2011-2012). From 2013 to 2015 Head of the Division for International Human Rights Protection in the Federal Foreign Office. Since September 1st, 2015, you are heading to the German Embassy in Beirut. Our wish is to promote even deeper our relationships with the text exceeds the maximum of the Federal Republic of Germany for what it represents today, at the educational, scientific, social and political level as a pioneer nation. Your achievements do not need to be listed and mentioned. I can say that our relations are still shy and it may be our fault. I would like to mention a few steps

that have been made between us and mention my trip a few years ago to Erfurt the city where Martin Luther was ordained priest to sign the cooperation between Saint Joseph University of Beirut with the University of Erfurt in the field of sociology studies and the annual pass to the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of dozens of young Germans at home to complete their studies as well as the Lebanese who go to Erfurt. I cannot forget our visits to the city, its historical places and the meeting with the Bishop of the Diocese of Thuringia. Unforgettable moments. More recently, we hosted here at the Faculty of Religious Sciences the symposium on the Reformation organized at the occasion of 500 years of this historical figure Martin Luther.

Even more recently, during a visit to the Science and Technology Campus on May 23, 2017, the DAAD team met with the Dean and Heads of ESIB Departments to discuss opportunities to strengthen cooperation between USJ and its partners through the various DAAD support programs. The meeting was followed by a presentation by Ms. Bahar Sayyas, Director of DAAD Lebanon and Mr. Ulf Oliver Hoesch, Cultural and Commercial Attaché at the German Embassy, for ESIB students on studies and research in Germany, but also and especially job opportunities as the German labor market suffers from a shortage in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Also, in October 2017, Mr. Dany Mezher, Director of the National Institute of Communications and Informatics, visited with a group of Lebanese academics and, by an initiative of the German Embassy and DAAD, several German universities to see the prodigious advances in science and technology. He was

impressed by this German system of training technicians and senior technicians on which much of the excellent German productivity is based. Finally, we are sure that this evening's topic will open up new perspectives on international relations in a positive way. The emergence of the concept of "scientific diplomacy" gives a new meaning to the relations between the states, strengthens the mobilization of the actors of the science (of the research in all the fields) and constitutes an important stake for the universities.