



Office of the Special Coordinator  
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial  
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams  
Statement Following Meeting with Prime Minister Saad Hariri  
Beirut, Lebanon**

Thursday, 04 March 2010

Good afternoon,

I just met with Prime Minister Saad Hariri. As usual, we had very good discussions of regional and domestic issues, and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701.

I informed the Prime Minister that I will be travelling to New York next week to brief the Security Council on the latest report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1701. The briefing of the Security Council will take place on Friday, March 12. The most recent report highlights that despite recent rhetoric, the situation along the Blue Line has remained relatively stable, and all parties have continued to reassure the United Nations of their commitment to the cessation of hostilities and the full implementation of resolution 1701. While this is important and positive, it should not detract from the importance of working towards a permanent ceasefire as called for in Resolution 1701.

I would like also to seize this occasion to welcome the decision of H.E. President Michel Sleiman to convene the national dialogue next week to discuss the issue of a national defense strategy and of the arms outside state control. It is a long standing belief of the United Nations that this issue should be addressed through a Lebanese political process, and we believe reconvening the national dialogue is important in this regard.

In my meeting with the Prime Minister we also touched on other political developments in Lebanon. I welcomed the decision of the Cabinet yesterday to appoint Minister of State Jean Ogasapian as the government's Coordinator for the development of a comprehensive strategy to manage Lebanon's borders. On behalf of the United Nations, I give our full commitment to work with Minister Ogasapian in this regard.

I know that today there will be a further Cabinet meeting which I understand will focus, among other things, on the draft municipal elections law. This I believe will perhaps be another important development and an indication of the exercise of the regular democratic process in Lebanon and of continuing efforts of reform.

Thank you very much.

\*\*\*\*\*

