



Office of the Special Coordinator
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael C. Williams
Statement following Meeting with Prime Minister-designate Najib Miqati
Beirut, Lebanon**

Wednesday, 04 May 2011

Good afternoon,

I just had a very good meeting with the Prime Minister-designate, Mr. Najib Miqati, and I am very grateful to him for receiving me today. We discussed domestic issues and particularly the process of government formation as well as some of the regional developments.

I take this opportunity to express my strong support for Najib Miqati as Prime Minister-designate and his endeavors to form a new government. I also expressed my concern to him that this process was taking such a long time. We talked about the needs of the Lebanese people at every level, social, economic and political, and that these needs necessitated the early formation of a government. So I very much want to see Prime Minister-designate Miqati successful in his efforts to form a new government as soon as possible.

We also discussed some of the security issues, the recent controversy for example about illegal construction. Najib Miqati told me that he was very concerned about these matters. We also discussed the fate of the missing Estonian cyclists, who have now been missing I believe for six weeks. I take this occasion again to appeal on humanitarian grounds for their immediate release.

Prime Minister-designate Miqati also asked me about Security Council Resolution 1701 and its implementation and I reassured him that I believe the situation in the south was stable, that the atmosphere on the Blue Line was satisfactory and that we saw no reason to be concerned about it.

At the regional level, I reminded Prime Minister-designate Miqati that the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, has expressed his concern about some of the developments in the region, in Syria, in Libya and in Bahrain amongst others. And the message of the Secretary-General is very clear, it underlines the need for dialogue, it underlines the need to avoid violence and to respect human rights.

Thank you very much.
