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

Friday, 04 September 2009

Good Afternoon

I just had a very good meeting with Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri. I wished him a Ramadan Kareem and I take this opportunity to extend the same wishes to the Lebanese people during this holy month.

My discussions with Prime Minister-designate Hariri today touched on the situation in Lebanon and the developments in the region. I congratulated Mr. Hariri on the initiatives he has taken during the past ten weeks to engage all the parliamentary blocs in the discussions on forming the government and his commitment to continuing the dialogue with all relevant parties in that regard.

We went over the process of forming a new government and I expressed my hope that this will be accomplished soon, particularly since the government will have many social, economic and security challenges to face after it is formed. In addition, as you all know, Lebanon is expected to take a seat at the Security Council in early 2010 and it is important for it to be fully prepared under the guidance of a functioning government.

We also raised in our talks today the implementation of Resolution 1701 and the situation in south Lebanon. I am pleased by the calm that prevails in the area and expressed the hope that the new government would renew Lebanon's commitment to the full implementation of that resolution.

Thank you

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