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Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement Following Meeting with MP Sleiman Franjieh
Bnachii, Lebanon**

Thursday, 05 May 2011

Good Morning.

I just had a very good meeting with Member of Parliament Sleiman Franjieh. We discussed the situation in Lebanon and in the Arab world.

I reiterated today my concern over the long time it is taking to form a new government in Lebanon. There are important issues that need to be addressed in Lebanon, including socio-economic conditions, rising prices and slowing economic growth. There are also concerns over the security situation. Lebanon, like any other country, needs a government to manage its daily affairs, and I believe politicians have a duty to the citizens of Lebanon.

We also discussed the dramatic developments throughout the region. I told Mr. Franjieh that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon continues to follow events in Syria, Libya, Bahrain and elsewhere very closely and with great concern. Governments in all these countries have an obligation to protect civilians and respect human rights. The world is changing, and the Arab region must keep pace.

Thank you very much
