



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 MP Saad Hariri
Beirut, Lebanon**

Monday, 05 October 2009

Good evening,

I just met with Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri. It was an opportunity to go over the recent developments in Lebanon and also at the regional level.

Inevitably our discussions focused on the process of government formation and the progress that has taken place during the past few weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to commend Saad Hariri for his untiring efforts to bring about a truly national government. I also hailed the open dialogue policy that is being adopted amongst the different political sides in this country. It is my sincere hope that this latest round of consultations will be fruitful. In this regard, I am very happy with the many meetings that have taken place, even in this day.

It has been almost four months since the parliamentary elections took place in June. The country needs a government to tackle the very many challenges that remain on hold, particularly with regards to social and economic reforms but also political and security challenges. The UN continues to urge all sides to do everything possible to make that happen soon.

Lebanon is also part of a broader regional context. In our discussions today with Prime Minister-designate Hariri, we noted the positive developments taking place at the regional level, particularly the progress we are witnessing in the improvement of relations between Syria and Saudi Arabia.

I also briefed the Prime Minister designate on our preparations at the United Nations for the eleventh report on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701 that is due at the end of this month. We are pleased that the situation in south Lebanon has been calm and stable recently. I also expressed my strong hope that the future government of Lebanon will renew its commitment to the full implementation of that resolution and will actively work in that direction.

Thank you very much.
