



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-designate Saad Hariri
Beirut, Lebanon**

Friday, 06 November 2009

Good Afternoon,

My meeting today with Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri focused on the process of forming a new government in Lebanon and the recent report of the UN Secretary-General on the Implementation of Resolution 1701.

I informed H.E. Saad Hariri that I will be in New York on Tuesday, the 10th of November, to brief the Security Council on Resolution 1701. I am hopeful that by that date a government will have been formed here in Lebanon. The United Nations has been very concerned that five months following the elections on June 7, Lebanon has yet to reach agreement on a new government.

I commended the policy that the Prime Minister-designate Hariri has adopted of an open dialogue. The delay in the process of government formation has put many important issues on hold, not least the urgent social and economic issues that affect the daily lives of the Lebanese people. This is a major concern.

I also raised today with the Prime Minister-designate the implementation of Resolution 1701 and the situation in south Lebanon. We are glad that overall, stability continues to prevail along the Blue Line and in south Lebanon, though we are concerned at the frequency of incidents in the recent period. There have been – and continue to be – violations from both sides. The Secretary-General has urged in his recent report that we focus on making progress towards a permanent ceasefire and the full implementation of resolution 1701. This would ensure long-term stability and security for the region and above all for Lebanon.

Thank you very much.
