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Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael C. Williams
Statement following Meeting with Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri**

Beirut, Lebanon

Monday, 07 March 2011

Good afternoon.

I just had a very good meeting with the Speaker of Parliament, H.E. Nabih Berri. We discussed many issues, both domestic questions, such as the formation of the next government, but also regional problems reflecting the turbulence throughout the Arab world, and particularly the very troubling situation in Libya.

The Speaker and I were in full agreement that irrespective of the differences that may exist internally within Lebanon, dialogue remains the only and most important tool for the Lebanese to resolve their problems.

I briefed the Speaker on the current report of the United Nations Secretary-General on 1701, which is now public, and informed him that I will go to New York at the end of this month to brief the Security Council on March 29.

We also had a detailed discussion again with the Speaker on the issue of maritime borders and the exploration and exploitation of resources, whether it be oil or gas, within Lebanese waters. The Speaker attaches great importance to this and we at the United Nations are trying to see a way forward for the UN to be engaged and to try and prevent this issue being a source of conflict in any way between Lebanon and its neighbors. I stressed that the UN supports Lebanon's right to take advantage of all the resources that may be found within its territorial waters and in Lebanon's Exclusive Economic Zone.

Thank you very much.
