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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 Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri
Beirut, Lebanon**

Monday, 14 December 2009

Good Afternoon,

I just had a very good meeting with the Speaker of Parliament, Mr. Nabih Berri. I congratulated him on the successful parliamentary session last week that officially launched the work of the new government. I was very pleased by the democratic atmosphere that prevailed during the three-day debates.

Lebanon now has an opportunity to proceed with concrete steps for tackling numerous challenges and introducing political and socio-economic reforms, whether through the work of its executive authority or parliamentary legislation. I relayed to Speaker Berri the readiness of the United Nations to lend its assistance to Lebanon in any field whenever requested.

I also had an important discussion with Speaker Berri today on human rights-related issues and Lebanon's preparations for presenting its report on the Universal Human Rights Review in January. Earlier this morning, I attended a meeting in Parliament that was dedicated to human rights on the occasion of human rights day and all these issues were also covered. While more always needs to be done in this field, Lebanon's commitment to improving its human rights record and to adhering to human rights treaties is very encouraging for the United Nations.

Thank you very much.

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