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**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement Following Meeting with caretaker Minister of Energy Gebran Bassil
Beirut, Lebanon**

Monday, 09 May 2011

I just had an excellent meeting with H.E. Minister Gebran Bassil. We talked about many issues in a very frank and helpful manner.

We talked about the internal situation and the regional situation. And I think on the question of the formation of the government, we were agreed that it would be good for Lebanon and its people if a government is formed as quickly as possible.

There are many issues that a new government needs to tackle and to make progress on. One of those issues is the question of maritime resources, the possibility of oil and gas off the shores of Lebanon. I was very pleased in my discussions with the Minister today that the plans in this ministry are very advanced. As soon as a government is formed, to try to take this issue forward to implement the law on the exploration and exploitation. And I commend the Minister for the work that the ministry has done in that regard. I believe that this issue alone, the question of maritime resources, is important enough, to justify the early formation of the government.

Thank you very much.

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