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pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams  
Statement Following Meeting with Foreign Minister Ali Shami  
Beirut, Lebanon**

Monday, 10 January 2011

Good morning,

I just had a very good meeting with his Excellency the Foreign Minister Mr. Ali Shami.

Most of our discussion was with regards to issues that the Minister has raised in the last weeks or so with regard to Lebanon's maritime borders and the delimitation of those borders.

I also briefed the minister on a meeting the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had in New York yesterday evening, Sunday evening, with Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri. In the meeting between the Secretary-General and the Prime Minister, they discussed a wide range of questions including the questions of maritime borders and potential oil and gas reserves.

The Minister raised with me the issue of the delimitation of Lebanon's borders and the potential oil and gas resources. I stressed the position of the UN that Lebanon has every right to benefit from any natural resources that may be found in the waters off its coast. Regarding the delimitation of the borders, normally this requires the agreement of all parties. But this is something that is obviously difficult in the case of Lebanon's maritime border with Israel. But the minister has appealed to me for the UN to look into what we can do to assist Lebanon in clarifying its maritime borders in conformity with the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas and also in conformity with Security Council Resolution 1701. I promised the minister that I would come back and see him in the coming weeks to discuss this further.

Thank you very much.

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