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**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams  
Statement After Lebanese Parliamentary Elections  
Thursday, 11 June 2009**

I was pleased that the election went smoothly and that all the international observers recorded no major criticism. I was also impressed that it took place in a calm atmosphere, which reflects well on the Lebanese people and the political parties. The Lebanese Army and the Internal Security Forces performed well, even though this was the first time that Lebanon has held elections on one day. I have no doubt that this played a major role in ensuring a safe outcome.

I have equally been impressed by the reactions in the days after the elections. Even those parties who have been disappointed have stressed the need for national unity and continued dialogue.

The formation of a new government will not be straightforward but I am convinced on the basis of the past week's events that this is also an achievement that can be secured in the not too distant future.

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