

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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 His Eminence Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah
Boutros Sfeir
Beirut, Lebanon**

Monday, 12 April 2010

Good Morning,

It was a great pleasure and privilege to meet with His Eminence Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir so soon after the great holy Easter occasion. Easter is for revival and renewal and I hope the spirit of renewal will guide Lebanon for the future.

We discussed today the general situation in Lebanon and in the region, particularly the situation of the Christian communities. In that regard, the Patriarch briefed me about the important history and role of the Christian community and its presence in Lebanon and the region.

Lebanon is characterized by its religious diversity and the coexistence among its different religious groups. The United Nations places great importance on efforts to bridge the gaps and open the doors of understanding and cooperation between religions and civilizations. We believe that with the support of its religious leaders, Lebanon has set a leading example in that regard.

Thank you.

* * *