



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, which adopted the ministerial statement and formally endorsed the new government.

Lebanon, we believe, has now an opportunity to proceed with concrete steps for tackling the challenges before it and also to introduce the political and social reforms, whether through the work of its executive authority or through parliamentary legislation. Both will be required. I relayed to Speaker Berri, and I've also relayed it to the Prime Minister, the readiness of the United Nations to give all its assistance to Lebanon in any field requested.

I also had a very good discussion with Speaker Berri today on human rights and on Lebanon's preparations for presenting its report to the UN Human Rights Council next year. Earlier this morning, I attended a meeting hosted by the parliamentary human rights committee, chaired by Dr. Michel Moussa, on the occasion of the UN's Human Rights Day, and these issues were also covered there, including the National Action Plan on human rights, which we support strongly. 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 to the United Nations.

Thank you very much.

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