



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 Minister of Interior Ziad Baroud
Beirut, Lebanon**

Thursday, 15 April 2010

Good Morning

I just had an excellent meeting with H.E. the Minister of Interior, Ziad Baroud.

We had a very good discussion about the situation in Lebanon and particularly about the forthcoming municipal elections and the preparations in that regard.

I strongly welcomed the agreement of all Lebanese political parties to go ahead with the municipal elections on time in May. One very important factor I think in this regard is the calm atmosphere that has prevailed and we hope will be maintained in the coming weeks and throughout the month of May and the four rounds of municipal elections. I trust and very much hope this will also contribute to ensuring that the elections themselves are held in a free and fair manner.

In this regard also, I welcomed as I have done before, the agreement in the National Dialogue, on 9 March, to maintain a calm and peaceful climate ahead of the elections. The UN strongly supports any agreement that helps promote an atmosphere of peace and stability in Lebanon, and we hope that the Dialogue participants, who are of course meeting again today, will reiterate this commitment.

Minister Baroud explained to me all the preparations that are now fully underway here at the Ministry of the Interior to ensure successful elections, both with regards to logistics, security and so on.

I have every confidence that these elections will be as successful as the parliamentary elections that were held here last year.

Thank you.

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