

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 MP Sleiman Franjieh
Bnachii, Lebanon**

Friday, 17 December 2010

Good Morning.

I just had a very good meeting with Member of Parliament Sleiman Franjieh. I am very grateful to him for receiving me today in Bnachii. We had an extensive discussion about the current problems in Lebanon and in the region.

I underlined the position of the United Nations that the solution to any crisis, no matter how sensitive, should be achieved through dialogue and through working through the country's state institutions. I told MP Franjieh that the assertions by the different sides in Lebanon that they wanted to avoid conflict were reassuring. These must be coupled with concrete steps and actions towards a solution and away from tension and distrust.

We also spoke about the initiatives by Lebanon's friends, and above all by Syria and Saudi Arabia, to try to make progress in resolving the prolonged stalemate in Lebanon. I believe that the progress of the regional side also needs to be coupled with progress internally and I believe that that is possible and I hope will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

Thank you very much. Shoukran.
