



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 Foreign Minister Ali Shami
Beirut, Lebanon**

Thursday, 20 May 2010

Good Morning, Bonjour

I just had a very good meeting with H.E. Foreign Minister Ali Shami. Our talks revolved around the very busy diplomatic activity involving Lebanon at the moment.

First, I reiterated my congratulations to Foreign Minister Shami on Lebanon's membership of the Security Council, and I expressed my support to him on Lebanon's presidency of the Council this month. Lebanon has steered the Council ably this month, and this is a great achievement. Next week, of course, Prime Minister Hariri will be chairing a thematic session of the Security Council in New York, and this will also be a significant milestone for Lebanon and I take the opportunity to wish the Prime Minister well on his visit to New York.

Foreign Minister Shami and I also touched upon the visitors from the region and beyond who have been coming to Lebanon, including, very prominently H.M. the Emir of Kuwait, Amre Moussa, the Secretary-General of the Arab League, and this weekend the foreign ministers of both France and of Germany. These visits are testament to Lebanon's regional and international standing and the important role it plays, especially now in the Security Council. We have also heard commitment and support from these countries to Lebanon's stability and security.

In this regard, I also discussed with the Foreign Minister Security Council Resolution 1701 and the need for all sides to respect the Blue Line and to refrain from any action that would contribute to undermining the general stability that prevails. I am pleased that recent tension is now diminishing and that all parties have lowered their rhetoric. At the same time, both Lebanon and Israel need to do more to push for the implementation of 1701 so we move forward from the current cessation of hostilities to a longer term ceasefire.

Thank you very much.
