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Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
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**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael C. Williams
Statement following Meeting with Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri**

Beirut, Lebanon

Tuesday, 21 June 2011

Good afternoon.

I just had a very good meeting with the Speaker, H.E. Nabih Berri. We had a good discussion about the situation in Lebanon and in the broader Arab world.

I welcomed the formation of the Lebanese government last week and also the particular role that Speaker Nabih Berri played, the positive role, in the formation of the government. Speaker Berri and I agreed that Lebanon now has the opportunity to address many challenges, for example social and economic challenges, that affect the Lebanese people.

Security in Lebanon is another challenge and I expressed my concern over the events in Tripoli last Friday, in which sadly lives were lost. I take the opportunity to express my condolences to the families of those killed. I also like to recall that it is now three months since the Estonian cyclists were abducted. This situation cannot continue. I expressed the hope that the Lebanese authorities would be able to prevent a recurrence of such incidents, which threaten the stability and security of the country.

Speaker Berri and I were also united in supporting the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701.

Thank you very much.
