



Office of the Special Coordinator
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement During Visit to Nabatieh Municipality
Nabatieh, south Lebanon**

Thursday, 22 April 2010

Good morning

I am pleased to be here with you today. It is my first visit to Nabatieh and it was an honor to meet with the local authorities and the Members of Parliament representing this area.

We had a very good discussion about the general situation in Nabatieh and in south Lebanon, the different needs of the area and where the United Nations can lend support.

In fact, the main purpose of my visit to Nabatieh today was to renew the support of the United Nations system in Lebanon for the demining efforts carried out by the Lebanese Armed Forces with the support of the UN and the donor community.

Earlier this morning I visited a field where the clearance of cluster bombs is underway and the Lebanese Army explained to me the formidable work they have been undertaking here and in other parts of south Lebanon.

The UN once again condemns the use of such deadly devices, particularly since their terrible impact is mainly felt by innocent civilians. I also take this opportunity to renew our calls for all States to ratify international conventions banning the use and stockpiling of cluster bombs and landmines.

While here today, we also naturally touched on the upcoming municipal elections and the preparations in that regard. We hope these elections take place in a fair, free and democratic atmosphere.

Thank you very much
