



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 caretaker Minister of Labor Boutros Harb
Beirut, Lebanon**

Wednesday, 23 February 2011

Good Morning,

I just had a very good meeting with H.E. Mr. Boutros Harb, the Minister of Labor. Our talks covered the situation in Lebanon as well as developments in the broader Arab region.

The Minister and I primarily discussed the political developments here. I commended the Minister for his engagement in efforts to ensure that dialogue between all sides continues and that a new government reflect the aspirations of all Lebanese people. This remains the hope of the United Nations. Dialogue is indispensable, in Lebanon as elsewhere. The events in the wider Arab world underline that communication between political and social forces is essential.

I also reiterated to Minister Harb the importance that any new government continue to respect Lebanon's international obligations.

The Minister and I also discussed the work he has undertaken, in line with international efforts to promote better human rights, especially in the field of labor. In particular, I welcomed his move to implement the new law that would facilitate the entry of some Palestinian refugees into the labor market. I also welcomed the move by the Minister on improving conditions for migrant domestic workers in Lebanon.

Thank you very much. Shoukran Jazeelan.
