



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 Michel Aoun
Beirut, Lebanon**

Wednesday, 23 September 2009

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

I just wanted to say a few words about a very good meeting that I just had with General Michel Aoun, leader of the Reform and Change bloc in Parliament. We had a good discussion, touching on a range of topics including developments in Lebanon and in the region.

The main issue we discussed was the process of government formation in Lebanon and the difficulties that this has encountered since the June 7 parliamentary elections. I relayed to Gen. Aoun the concerns of the United Nations over the lack of an agreement on this matter. This in turn, we agreed, has delayed important steps that the new Lebanese Government must take to tackle the many social, economic and security challenges facing the country.

Furthermore, as you know, Lebanon is expected to take over one of the rotating seats at the UN Security Council for the period 2010 to 2012. This is a very important role for Lebanon, which requires a fully functioning government that can follow up on many important international issues.

Gen Aoun and I agreed that it was vital to keep the channels of dialogue open between the different sides in the country and to try to reach a solution as soon as possible. I believe that this is possible if the Lebanese remain committed to a national unity government and to working in that direction. I hope the consultations that Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri will undertake with the different parliamentary blocs, starting tomorrow, will be successful this time.

Thank you very much.
