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Office of the Special Coordinator
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

Farouk Mawlawi Obituary
By UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams

Beirut, 26 January 2010

On 26 January 2010, our colleague Farouk Mawlawi passed away after an eight-month battle with illness. Mr. Mawlawi, of Lebanese nationality, was a true citizen of the United Nations and of the world.

His contribution to the United Nations, where he spent most of his career, was as broad and as marked as the missions and countries he served in.

He first joined the United Nations in Baghdad in 1975 as Director of the United Nations Information Centre/Service. From there he took up several positions in New York including as Spokesperson for the President of the General Assembly, in Cyprus as spokesperson for UNFICYP and in Somalia as spokesperson for the UN mission there. His last duty with the United Nations was as Special Advisor to the Secretary-General and Non-Governmental Organizations' Liaison Coordinator of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II) in New York.

His dedication to the United Nations was such that even after his retirement in 1996, he became a founding member of AFICS, the Association of the Former International Civil Servants in 1999, to continue lending a hand to the United Nations in serving the people of Lebanon and the world. He was President of AFICS until he passed away.

The colleagues who worked with him attest to the passion and conviction he bestowed on every job he undertook. Whether in the line of duty or outside his UN functions, Mr. Mawlawi was known to all around him as a kind, thoughtful and soft-spoken man but who was never afraid to speak out against injustice and the rightful causes.
