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Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement Following Meeting with MP Sleiman Franjieh
Rabieh, Lebanon**

Monday, 26 October 2009

Good afternoon.

Let me just say I just had a very very good meeting with Minister Sleiman Franjieh. It is the first time I've had the opportunity to meet with him for a few months now and there was a lot to catch up on. We discussed the latest developments in Lebanon, and particularly the process of the formation of the government, as well as developments in the region following the summit meeting in Damascus between H.E. President Assad of Syria and His Majesty King Abdallah of Saudi Arabia.

On the situation in Lebanon, I commended Minister Franjieh for the very positive role he has played with regards to the formation of a new government. I expressed also the concern of the United Nations over the delay in forming a government, now almost five months since elections in June. I welcomed the policy of open dialogue that has been adopted by the different political sides, particularly by Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri, during the past weeks but emphasized that more flexibility is needed from all sides now to speed up the formation of the government. Time is now the essence.

I hope Lebanon's leaders will push towards a solution very soon.

Thank you very much.
