### United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
### Statement Following Meeting with Lebanese Forces Leader Samir Geagea
### Maarab, Lebanon

Friday, 19 February 2010

Bonjour, Good morning.

It was a great pleasure this morning to meet with Dr. Samir Geagea. We had a very good meeting.

It was an opportunity for me to discuss with Dr. Geagea developments in Lebanon and in the region. We reviewed the current political dynamics and the continuing Government discussions on relevant issues. I hope that the Government will be able to make progress on many of the substantive items on its agenda in the coming weeks and months.

I also briefed Dr. Geagea about the forthcoming 1701 report which is due to be delivered to the Security Council before the end of February. I also informed Dr. Geagea that I will be going to New York in March, probably in the second week of March to personally brief the Secretary-General and the Security Council about the situation.

Thank you very much

QUESTION: We have heard that the Secretary General has asked for a (inaudible) force for south Lebanon. Are we at a stage of war, are we looking at war towards Lebanon, is that why?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: No, no, no. I don't think so. The Secretary-General yesterday sent a report on the review of UNIFIL to all the members of the Security Council, which of course includes Lebanon, and this is largely a technical review. I think that's where it is.

QUESTION: Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said two days ago that he doesn't trust in the UN Resolutions protecting Lebanon. What are your comments on that?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: I would simply say that since 1701 was adopted in now more than three and a half years ago, we believe that it has brought stability on the Blue Line between Lebanon and Israel and that the people of southern Lebanon have enjoyed

development and security that they did not have in the previous 30 years. I think that's the facts on the ground.

Thank you very much.

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