I am very grateful for Prime Minister-designate Najib Mikati for receiving me this afternoon.

We had a very good meeting. I underlined the importance of maintaining calm and stability in Lebanon during this period. I reiterated the position of the UN that all sides need to engage in dialogue to resolve differences, no matter how sensitive.

In that respect, I am sure that the new government, when it is formed, will maintain good relations with the United Nations and will fully abide by its international obligations. Mr. Mikati underlined to me his strong support for Security Council Resolution 1701.

Thank you very much.

***