The following Security Council press statement was issued today by Council President Raimonda Murmokaitė (Lithuania):

The members of the Security Council welcomed the formation of a new government in Lebanon in order to respond effectively to the many political, security, humanitarian and development challenges facing Lebanon. They looked forward to the constructive engagement of this government with the international community in particular the International Support Group to mobilize support for Lebanon.

The members of the Security Council stressed that effective implementation of SCR 1701 and other relevant Security Council resolutions remains crucial to ensuring stability in Lebanon. They underlined the need for the government to uphold Lebanon’s long standing democratic tradition in particular in ensuring that presidential elections will take place within the constitutional framework.

Recalling the Presidential Statement of July 10, 2013, the members of the Security Council appealed to all Lebanese people to preserve national unity in the face of attempts to undermine the country’s stability and stressed the importance for all Lebanese parties to respect Lebanon’s policy of disassociation and to refrain from any involvement in the Syrian crisis, consistent with their commitment in the Baabda Declaration.

15 February 2015