

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Office of the Special Coordinator
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael C. Williams
Statement following Meeting with Foreign Minister Adnan Mansour**

Beirut, Lebanon

Monday, 12 September 2011

Good morning. I just had an excellent meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Adnan Mansour.

September is a very important month for Lebanon. This week in Beirut we will have the second meeting of the convention on cluster munitions. This meeting will be opened by H.E. President Michel Sleiman this evening and I will also be attending this meeting in the course of the week.

It is also an important month for Lebanon because Lebanon has the presidency of the Security Council in New York. September in New York is always very busy and I think it will be especially busy this year. I believe that Lebanon will guide the Security Council in a very wise and judicious manner. Among the many issues that will be discussed in New York will be the question of Palestine and the question of Palestinian Statehood. All these subjects I discussed with the Minister.

We also discussed the question of the Special Tribunal on Lebanon and I was pleased by the remarks of Prime Minister (Najib) Mikati yesterday underlining Lebanon's obligations with regards to the tribunal and the Minister himself strongly supported this this morning.

On Sunday, I visited Cairo and had discussions with Secretary-General (Nabil) Al Arabi, the Secretary-General of the Arab League, and also with the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mr. Mohammed Kamel Amr. Those discussions covered many issues but of course one of them was the situation in Syria. And Secretary-General Al Arabi underlined his concern about the present situation in Syria and the need for urgent reforms.

Thank you very much

QUESTION: You mentioned that the Minister also strongly supported the commitment of Lebanon's obligations on the STL?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: Correct because these are international obligations that Lebanon has with regards to the STL and Lebanon, as a longstanding member of the United Nations and now above all a member of the Security Council itself, needs to meet its obligations.

QUESTION: When do you expect the financing will be and in which manner?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: I am not sure when those decisions will be taken by the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers. But as you know, there is an obligation under which Lebanon agreed to fund 49 percent of the tribunal. The Foreign Minister will accompany President Sleiman on a visit to New York I think beginning the 18th or the 19th of September and then later in the month Prime Minister Mikati will also go to New York. So I am sure these issues will be discussed with the Secretary-General while they are there.

QUESTION: When are you leaving Lebanon?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAM: Sadly on October the 1st.

QUESTION: Do you know who will be your successor?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: We will see. I have no information yet on my successor, I think the Secretary-General has not made that decision yet.

QUESTION: will you be attending the General Assembly in New York?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: No, not this year. I will stay here for the rest of the month.
