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Office of the Special Coordinator
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Derek Plumbly
Statement following Meeting with Foreign Minister Adnan Mansour**

(Delivered in Arabic)

Beirut, Lebanon

Thursday, 08 March 2012

I had a very good meeting with Foreign Minister Adnan Mansour. I informed the Minister that I will be travelling to New York in two or three days to attend a meeting of the United Nations Security Council to discuss the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1701. I discussed this issue with the Minister who will also be travelling, to Cairo to attend the meetings of the League of Arab States.

We naturally discussed the crisis in Syria and its impact and the importance of the mission of Mr. Kofi Annan, the UN and Arab League Envoy for Syria. We all hope for the success of his mission, which is of the greatest importance for the region at large.

Today is International Woman's Day. I would like to take this opportunity to note the achievements of women here in Lebanon in the fields of culture and business, for example. But I would add that I have noticed that in all my initial meetings in Lebanon, I have not had a single meeting with any official, minister, or political leader who is a woman. In my meeting with the minister, we discussed briefly the parliamentary elections due in 2013 since the UN has traditionally played a technical role in assisting the Lebanese authorities in preparing for such elections. Let us hope that the elections will result in a stronger participation and bigger representation of women in the political field here in the future. This is something that should concern all of us today.

Thank you.

QUESTION: When will the Security Council meet to discuss Resolution 1701?

SCL DEREK PLUMBLY: So far, the session is scheduled on 21 March.

QUESTION: What do you think of the meeting that Russia will attend with Arab foreign ministers in Cairo line with the Arab League meetings?

SCL DEREK PLUMBLY: It is very important. Divisions within the international community do not help resolve crises in general and certainly not this one. Dialogue is very important and this particular dialogue is obviously among the most important that can happen at this time.
