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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

Wednesday, 08 February 2012

Good morning,

Let me first say how honoured I am to have the opportunity to serve as the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon.

My first encounter with Lebanon was many years ago when I came to live here to study Arabic. That experience left a very warm and very positive impression on me. I am delighted to be back.

I arrived in Beirut last Saturday and today I had my first meetings with Lebanese officials. I have just had a very good meeting with Foreign Minister Adnan Mansour. Earlier this morning I met with Prime Minister Najib Mikati and I will be meeting later today with H.E. the President of the Republic and with H.E. the Speaker of the Parliament. In the weeks ahead, I look forward to meeting the broadest possible range of Lebanese interlocutors.

While my calls today are mainly courtesy ones, they are also an opportunity for me to discuss issues relating to UNSCOL's mission in Lebanon as well as the situation in the region more broadly. These are difficult times. But the United Nations remains deeply committed to promoting the security and stability of Lebanon and to further consolidating what has been achieved since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1701.

In my meetings so far today, I have also briefly discussed the longstanding cooperation between Lebanon and the United Nations in so many different fields. I look forward to working with the Lebanese authorities to further deepen our joint efforts for the welfare and development of Lebanon and its people.

Thank you once again for welcoming me in your country.
