



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 Prime Minister Najib Mikati**

(Delivered in Arabic)

Beirut, Lebanon

Thursday, 20 December 2012

Good Morning,

I just had a good meeting with Prime Minister Najib Mikati. It was an opportunity to exchange ideas on recent developments, particularly those related to the impact of the crisis in Syria on Lebanon.

We discussed the issue of displaced Syrians, and the significant rise in the numbers of Syrian and Palestinian refugees who have fled to Lebanon during the past week. Two things have to be highlighted: the very difficult circumstances that forced these people to leave their homes, and the humanitarian obligation to assist them until they are able to return. In that regard, I again told the Prime Minister of the United Nations' deep appreciation for the hospitality that the Lebanese Government and people have extended to refugees during the past 20 months.

We understand that this represents a very big burden for Lebanon, and one which is likely to grow before those displaced are able to return home. The United Nations agencies concerned – UNHCR but also WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, and UNRWA – are dedicated to working in the closest possible fashion with the government to help it and the displaced and the communities receiving them. We are standing and will stand shoulder to shoulder with Lebanon in this. I reiterated to the Prime Minister the support of the United Nations for the response plan that the Government has prepared, and for the arrangements put in place in it. Donors are studying their responses to the government's plan. In addition the United Nations announced yesterday in Geneva a revised response plan which will be closely coordinated with that of the government and which includes a call for a further \$267 million specifically for needs in Lebanon. Obviously we hope for a generous response.

We also discussed security issues, and specifically support for the Lebanese Armed Forces whose role is vital both in implementing Security Council resolution 1701 and in ensuring security and stability across Lebanon at this time. The Lebanese Armed Forces are working on proposals in this regard, and in this they have strong support from the United Nations.
