

**Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General
on the establishment of Syrian-Lebanese diplomatic relations**

New York, 15 October 2008

The Secretary-General welcomes the historic steps taken by Lebanon and Syria to establish full diplomatic relations. This joint effort between two nations reinforces the sovereignty, stability and political independence of the Lebanese State in accordance with the Taif Accord and relevant Security Council resolutions.

The Secretary-General hopes that this landmark event will encourage Syria and Lebanon to engage in further constructive dialogue that will bring mutual benefits to both countries and help ensure stability and progress in their bilateral relations.

The Secretary-General stands ready to support Lebanon and Syria towards these goals.