

Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General

on the formation of new Government in Lebanon

The Secretary-General warmly welcomes today's announcement of the formation of a new Government in Lebanon, and congratulates Prime Minister Tamam Salam on this important step.

The Secretary-General encourages Lebanon's political leaders to build on the constructive engagement which led to the formation of the new Government to ensure that the country's forthcoming presidential election is successfully conducted within the timeframe set by law.

The Secretary-General pays tribute to outgoing Prime Minister Najib Mikati for his leadership. The United Nations looks forward to working with the new Government in its efforts to serve the people of Lebanon and to ensure the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 and other relevant resolutions which remain essential to the country's stability.

Given the severity of the security, humanitarian and economic challenges facing Lebanon, the Secretary-General emphasises the importance of the Government being able without delay to act effectively to address such challenges with the full support of all parties.

New York, 15 February 2014

