

Statement Attributable to the Spokesperson for the United Nations Secretary-General on the election of the new Lebanese President

New York, Beirut, 25 May 2008 –

The Secretary-General congratulates the Lebanese people on the election of Michel Suleimane as President of the Republic. This election brings an end to the constitutional void that has endured in Lebanon since 21 November 2007.

The Secretary-General hopes that today's historic event leads to the revitalization of all of Lebanon's constitutional institutions and a return to political dialogue within this framework. He urges all Lebanese parties to press ahead together in consolidating the sovereignty, stability and political independence of the Lebanese State in accordance with the Taif accord and relevant Security Council resolutions.

The Secretary-General stands ready to support the Lebanese people as required and looks forward to working closely with the President and the future Government of Lebanon towards these goals.