



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**

Beirut, Lebanon

Tuesday, 04 September 2012

Good Morning,

I just had a very good and detailed meeting with H.E. Prime Minister Mikati about the situation in Lebanon and recent developments.

I have been out of the country for a short while but I am very conscious of the challenges to law and order that have occurred recently here, particularly the fighting in Tripoli that led to serious loss of life and the kidnappings in Lebanon and previously in Syria. In that context I would like to say that we strongly hope that all those who have been kidnapped will be released without any further delay. It is unacceptable that this situation should continue and people should be held in this way.

The Prime Minister briefed me on the steps that the Government and the security authorities have taken to address these challenges, including the determination to hold those responsible for such actions accountable. We very much welcome everything that the authorities are doing in this context.

We also discussed the situation on the border and I would like to underline again our concern that cross border incursions and shelling continue.

Our discussions also touched on the work of the United Nations in addressing immediate challenges, particularly the situation of Syrians displaced here in Lebanon. We look forward to continued and indeed strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and Lebanese authorities in meeting their needs in the coming period.

Finally, we discussed the situation in UNIFIL's area of operations. I should in that context note the adoption on 28 August of Security Council Resolution 2064 which renewed UNIFIL's mandate and thereby extended support for everything UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces do in the area of operations in the south. It is worth adding that this resolution is a further

indication, if indication were needed, of the unity of the Security Council and the international community in its strong support for Lebanon, which is an absolutely key consideration at this time.

QUESTION: The Lebanese Government has complained that it cannot offer more to the displaced Syrians and several UN officials have visited Lebanon for that purpose. Is there a project for activating this UN support with regard to the issue of the displaced Syrians?

SCL DEREK PLUMBLY: I think you will hear more in the coming days about contacts between the United Nations and the Lebanese Government on this. Beyond that, I expect to see a further appeal from the United Nations to donors to assist in caring for the displaced people here in Lebanon because their numbers have increased and the burden is understood; it is a heavy one and we welcome everything the Lebanese Government has done to date to look after the brothers from Syria.

QUESTION: Is there an intention to deploy UNIFIL along the borders with Syria?

SCL DEREK PLUMBLY: I said we were concerned by what is happening at the border. But our focus, my focus is very much on what we can do to help the Lebanese Armed Forces. We, with donors, have been helping over a period of years but we are looking now with more urgency at what we can do to help the security authorities here in Lebanon to control the border as it should be.

Thank you very much.
