

## Williams after Meeting Hariri: Lebanon Needs Government to Tackle Challenges

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United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams said Monday that Lebanon is in need of a government that would face up to challenges.

His remarks came following a meeting at Center House with PM-designate Saad Hariri where discussions focused on recent domestic and regional political developments, particularly progress of the government formation process.

"I would like to take this opportunity to commend Saad Hariri for his untiring efforts to bring about a truly national government," Williams told reporters.

While he praised the open dialogue policy adopted by the various political parties, Williams hoped that the current round of consultations would reach a successful conclusion.

"It has been almost four months since the parliamentary elections took place in June; the country needs a government to tackle the very many challenges that remain on hold, particularly with regards to social and economic reforms as well as political and security challenges," he said.

The U.N. official explained that Lebanon was part of a broader regional context, stressing the positive developments taking place at the regional level, particularly the progress in relations between Syrian and Saudi Arabia.

Williams informed Hariri on the U.N. preparations to issue by the end of October the 11th report regarding implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701.

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