

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Office of the Special Coordinator  
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial  
pour le Liban

**Joint Press Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon and Ambassadors of France, Russia, the United States of America, Germany, Italy, the European Union, the League of Arab States, representatives of United Kingdom and China and the Apostolic Nuncio.**

Bkerke, Lebanon  
3 February 2016

The Ambassadors of France, Russia, the United States of America, Germany, Italy, the European Union, the League of Arab States, representatives of the United Kingdom and China and the Apostolic Nuncio as well as the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, met today with Maronite Patriarch Bechara Boutros El-Rai to discuss the political situation in Lebanon, with a particular focus on the presidential vacuum.

The participants expressed their deep concern over the continued vacancy in the presidency and shared the Patriarch's concerns with regard to the erosion of the institutions of state in the absence of a president. Participants called for all Members of Parliament to urgently attend a parliamentary session and to proceed to elect a president.

They reiterated their commitment to strong and coordinated international support for Lebanon to reinforce Lebanon's stability, and emphasised the need to protect the most vulnerable in Lebanon, including all refugees.