

Special Tribunal for Lebanon  
Statement by the United Nations Secretary-General after his meeting with Prime Minister  
Fouad Siniora of Lebanon  
Doha, 30 November 2008

I am pleased to announce that the Special Tribunal for Lebanon is fully on track to commence functioning on 1 March 2009. I discussed with Prime Minister Siniora of Lebanon today and confirmed that Lebanon is content with this commencement date. I and Prime Minister Siniora agree that the launch of the Special Tribunal will be a significant step towards the end of impunity. We also hope that the Security Council will endorse the plan.

There will now be a build up in momentum with a coordinated transition starting on 1 January 2009, during which the staff of the International Independent Investigation Commission (IIIC) in Beirut will gradually transfer to The Hague . This will be carried out in a manner that ensures that there is no interruption to the IIIC investigation.

The United Nations is well-advanced in preparation work for this transition phase through the Registrar and his Advance Team in The Hague .

I wish to thank those member States which have contributed funds to the Special Tribunal, and encourage all member States to pledge their financial support for the coming years so that we can be assured that the Special Tribunal will continue on a firm financial footing.