relationship between the Special Coordinator and Resident Coordinator – who also acts as the Deputy Special Coordinator – the mission’s integration with the UNCT remains fragile and subject to personalities. However, while institutional differences remain, the successful initiatives in 2009 show that some coordination successes are starting to emerge.

Changes in the regional environment, such as an escalation of tensions between Iran and Israel, or a shift in the dynamics with Syria, could quickly change the internal balance in Lebanon and the tenuous cessation of hostilities between Israel and Lebanon. The underlying and indeed long-term challenges of Lebanon’s confessional political system could also change UNSCOL’s level of involvement in Lebanon if governance challenges, such as presented by the parliamentary elections in 2009, arise. If such a sudden shift occurs, UNSCOL good offices will once again be called upon – in the meantime a tense status quo with regard to the disarmament and disputed border objectives of Resolution 1701 prevails.

NOTES

1. As of July 2010, Hamas has not signed the Egyptian-drafted reconciliation document, which was signed by all of the factions within the PLO, following several rounds of intra-Palestinian negotiations in 2009.

2. In June 2010, Israel announced steps to ease the Gaza blockade allowing more goods and construction materials to reach Gaza. The decision came in response to increased international criticism of the blockade following Israel’s raid on Gaza-bound aid ships on 31 May, which resulted in the death of nine passengers.

3. UNSCO was able to facilitate entry of the material from the Turkish flotilla to Gaza following engagement with the flotilla organizers, Turkey, Israel, and the de facto Hamas authorities in Gaza.