the prime minister designate, the parliament speaker, Hezbollah and other political actors, to assess their interests and provide advice aimed at guaranteeing Lebanon’s long-term stability. The Special Coordinator has also advocated for a resumption of the National Dialogue Committee that disbanded in November 2010, which remains an important mechanism for the stability of the country, besides being the forum chosen by Lebanese leaders to reach agreement on the national defense strategy that must take into account the disarmament of armed groups. Amid widespread fears that the government’s collapse would spark an outbreak of violence, UNSCOL has also repeatedly initiated or joined international calls for restraint and peaceful dialogue.

A key challenge to the mission’s mediation role and its ability to reach out to all actors has been its perceived link with the STL. Establishing a clear distinction between its functions and modus operandi and the Tribunal’s genesis and mandates has been a constant undertaking for UNSCOL, one that will gain added significance in the coming months following the STL’s issuance of indictments and arrest warrants on 30 June 2011 for four members of Hezbollah.

The political stalemate and the lack of functioning national institutions, particularly the National Dialogue, have also left a number of outstanding obstacles to full compliance with Resolution 1701 unaddressed. In particular, very little progress was achieved in the area of disarmament of armed groups, which UNSCOL, on behalf of the Secretary-General, has repeatedly called for within the framework of domestic processes of dialogue.

UNSCOL continued to monitor other aspects of Resolution 1701, including the cessation of hostilities between Lebanon and Israel, in coordination with UNIFIL. Despite occasional incidents, the front line remained relatively calm, with both UNSCOL and UNIFIL joining efforts through a combined diplomatic and security engagement to defuse tensions.

In November 2010, the Government of Israel announced its intention to withdraw from the northern half of Ghajar, a village straddling the border between Lebanon and Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, controlled by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) since the 2006 war. The decision by the Israeli Cabinet came after intense international