Mission reviews

Team [LIBAT]) to assess border monitoring and propose measures to improve border control.

UNSCOL’s access to the highest level of the Lebanese government provides another platform for successful joint developmental and political initiatives. In terms of Palestinian and Human Rights issues, there has been progress in the reconstruction of the Nahr el Bared camp in 2009 as well as increased advocacy on issues such as the right for Palestinians to work and the provision of national IDs. The governance working group, which is chaired by UNSCOL, is organizing the electoral forums and helping to provide technical assistance to the May 2010 municipal elections.

The semi-integrated nature of the mission can often pose a challenge in terms of the public perception of UNSCOL’s role in conflict mediation. UNIFIL’s sheer size and scope with command of upwards of 12,000 international troops on the ground remains the face of the UN in Lebanon for most Lebanese. However, Special Coordinator Williams is very active in media outreach, widely recognized and afforded access at the highest levels of the Lebanese government. UNSCOL thus maintains a strong reputation as fair-minded with respect to domestic parties within Lebanon and regional counterparts.

Conclusion

While relations between the political and development sides of the aisle have notably improved in the past two years, due mainly to the good working