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## PRESS RELEASE

### Tripartite Meeting

Naqoura, Lebanon – The Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Major-General Claudio Graziano, met with senior officials from the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) today at the UN Position at the border crossing at Ras Al Naqoura.

The main focus of the meeting was the implementation of resolution 1701 and the recent incidents in UNIFIL's area of operations, namely, the launch of rockets from Lebanese territory into Israel on 17 July and the terrorist attack on a UNIFIL convoy on 24 July.

Regarding the latter, the representatives of the IDF and LAF conveyed their condolences on the tragic loss of six UNIFIL peacekeepers. They also expressed their full support and readiness to work together with UNIFIL to prevent a repeat of such incidents.

The Force Commander thanked the representatives, and added that UNIFIL's peacekeepers were not deterred by the terrorist attack.

*"I assured the parties that UNIFIL peacekeepers remain committed more than ever to implementing the tasks mandated by resolution 1701. This was not only an attack against UNIFIL. It was also an attack against peace and security in the area, and against the interests of the Lebanese people,"* Major-Gen. Graziano said.

Those attending the meeting also discussed the marking of the Blue Line and the temporary security arrangements for the northern part of the village of Ghajar.

*"This meeting was constructive and we made progress on these issues,"* Maj.-Gen. Graziano said. *"We hope to reach an understanding soon concerning the temporary security arrangements in northern Ghajar which would facilitate the withdrawal of the IDF from the Lebanese territory."*

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