

## **Speech of the Republic of Iraq**

### **The Prepcom3 of the UN Conference of Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III)**

**25-27 July 2016 /Surabaya- INDONESIA**

**Eng.**

**Istabraq I. AL Shouk**

**Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Construction and Housing and Municipalities  
and Public Works**

**Head of the National HABITAT Committee in Iraq**

**Hon'ble chairman of The Prepcom3 of the UN Conference of Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III)**

**Excellencies :**

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Iraq, and His Excellency the Minister of Construction and Housing and Municipalities and Public Works, I am pleased to convey to you our thanks and our appreciation for your kind invitation to attend this meeting and follow up the ongoing arrangements of the UN Conference of Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III) in October 2016 in Quito/ EQUADOR and the adaption of the New Urban Agenda for better urban future .

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Iraq succeeded in formulating the National Development Plan for the years 2013-2017 with an ambitious vision: "A safe, stable country where citizens enjoy civil, economic, social and environmental rights, aspire to build a diverse and competitive national economy, possess the keys to advancement in all scientific, cultural and intellectual fields; where everyone participates in a federal, decentralized, socially-integrated system that provides fair opportunities for development, in which the private sector and civil society are active Partners and environmental sustainability represents an approach toward achieving a green economy"

But Iraq striving to achieve the objectives of the National Development Plan have been hampered because of the terrorist attack of ISIS in the

middle of 2014 with a range of political, economic, social and cultural crises as follows:

1. The number of internal displaced persons and migrants from the provinces which were occupied by terrorist gangs ISIS two years ago more than 3.6 million displaced persons scattered in the provinces of Iraq.
2. Iraq's financial losses excess of \$ 23 billion for the period after 2014 due the occupation of ISIS for some areas, including government buildings and property of the citizens with the government's inability to finance the reconstruction campaign because of the financial crisis experienced by Iraq as a result of lower oil prices
3. Genocide against Yazidis and seek to destroy the ethnic and religious group, which includes 400,000 people through killings, sexual slavery and other crimes, there are at least 3,200 Yazidi women and child are still being held by ISIS.
4. Theft and destruction of archaeological sites of oldest human civilizations that are Global Humanitarian Heritage.
5. The growth of slums and informal squatters, which was one of the results of forced displacement because of terrorism.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Iraq has begun to take the necessary measures in order to address the multiple crises as follows:

1. The Iraqi government was formed in September 2014 a sovereign fund for the reconstruction of areas occupied by ISIS and allocated \$ 400 million as a first batch.
2. Local Development Project in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme.
3. The National Program for the Settlement and Rehabilitation of Slums in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
4. Updating of National Housing Policy in Iraq in cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, taking into account variables which Iraq passes.
5. Iraqi Central Bank initiative of granting soft loans to the agricultural, industrial and housing sectors to revive local

economies and create jobs to encourage individual for spatial settlement which amount \$5 billion.

Every body knows that establishment of a safe, inclusive, resilience and sustainable cities requires taking the following approaches for the reconstruction of devastated cities:

1. Human Development (human): by expanding the range of options for individuals, which includes, along with health, education and resources to ensure a good standard of living, the elements of human development of: freedom, equity, participation, empowerment and sustainability as well as political freedoms, human rights and Man's self-esteem taking into account gender sensitivity, households woman-headed and youth,.
2. Spatial Development (Earth): in order to achieve a comprehensive and balanced urban development seeking to improve the community and be the basis for raising the living level of the individual from all the physical, social, economic and environmental aspects through the organization of land use, provision of urban services and support for economic activities to accommodate the current and future urban growth rates.

Finally we confirm Iraq's need for continued support by your conference in the face the challenges of terrorism risks that man-made to achieve the comprehensive sustainable urban prosperity with equal opportunities for all, social cohesion and poverty reduction. Taking into account IDP and migrants, respecting of human rights and providing decent services, shelter and productive employment for the affected communities, protecting diversity of the community, mutual respect, cultural heritage and participation in urban life without fear of violence or discrimination .

We call upon the UN settlement programme (YU-HABITAT )as the UN system focal point for the New Urban Agenda to lead in supporting UN member states in the implementation, monitoring, and review of the New Urban Agenda.

For this purpose and considering the growing trend of urbanization in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we request that UN- habitat is provided with adequate capacity to perform this critical function.

We also recognize that the New Urban Agenda requires the engagement of a wide range of national stakeholders and thus we advocate for the

continued involvement of national habitat committee in implementation ,  
monitoring and review of the New Urban Agenda.

**We reiterate our thanks and appreciation to INDONESIA and wish  
success for all.**

**Eng.  
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