



Speech
of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General
for Iraq
Christine McNab
At the Launch Ceremony for
The Iraq Development Management System (IDMS)
Baghdad, 16 June 2011

Your Excellency, Prime Minister Al-Maliki, Minister for Planning Al Shukri, distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here today representing the United Nations element of this impressive partnership that has led to the creation of a significant instrument for aid and development effectiveness in Iraq.

I believe this tool shows what can be achieved when there are committed Government counterparts on one side and major international partners on the other, working hand in hand to achieve the same goal.

The IDMS came about just over one year ago when UNDP and the Tatweer project were converging towards the same agenda: supporting the Government of Iraq in better planning, managing and monitoring of its entire capital investment project portfolio, be it from the national budget or from external aid.

The IDMS is a major reform of part of the public sector and an ambitious e-governance application; it would not have been possible without the financial support from the EU, Spain and USAID nor without the technical prowess of Synergy Systems.

The launching of this instrument comes at the right time: a new Government fully in place; a credible National Development Plan guiding all our efforts; and, significant domestic resources becoming available to Iraq which will need to be well planned and managed for optimal developmental dividends.

At such a time, to have a tool that can manage and track external assistance, capital investment projects, provide donor profiles, provide detailed information on project activities and allow for NDP sector monitoring seems absolutely essential.

Clearly this is a very sophisticated tool and I know that everyone involved in the Ministry of Planning and the international partners have been working hard on this including efforts to implement the original system, the Development Assistance Database, in 2005.

I am also aware that a large amount of training has been provided to the Ministry of Planning and to other line Ministries so that this tool will be used frequently and competently. The training support will continue until the Ministry of Planning and all line Ministries and Governorates will be fully able to run the system according to their respective needs and able to train their relevant colleagues.

We are ceremonially celebrating today the launch of an exciting development product but the support of the UN, the EU and the US to the Government counterparts does not end here. There is work to be done to further develop the system and support its utilization. We cannot afford, on any level, to allow this tool to fail or to become redundant and I know that the same Government officials and experts and the same international partners that have brought us all this far will continue to work hand in hand.

The fact that we are launching the IDMS now, just in time to catch the 2012 budgetary cycle, is a sign of how important it is to use this tool right now. Already a very significant amount of data has been entered concerning 2011 and 2010 investment projects.

We also need to make sure that this tool is given the momentum and authority from the Government to ensure that all stakeholders are strongly encouraged to use the system.

The donors will also need to use the system and update their information as often as possible. We, the international community, are committed to implementing the principles of the Paris Declaration but too often we do not share our external assistance information in a timely manner. I hope that with this new tool, which has the capacity to provide a complete picture of all developmental projects in Iraq, we will all be encouraged to fulfill our information sharing obligations to Iraq.

The UN will continue to support the Government of Iraq in its institutional aid management arrangements. With support from EU and Spanish funds, we are currently working with the Prime Ministers Office and the Ministry of Planning in defining new aid management mechanisms, policies, workplan, protocols and structures which we hope will be finalized early next year. As a partner, the UN can only advise, guide and suggest; the rest is in the hands of the Government.

We are also supporting Iraq's participation to the 2010 Paris Declaration Survey and I am pleased to say that the UN system has submitted its contributions to the National Aid Coordinator. Further UN support on completing the international partners' contributions and the national part of the survey is ongoing.

I finish my address by expressing my desire to hear the IDMS entering into our common language here in Iraq and to hear about the progress of its implementation across all levels of Government and across the donor community.

Thank you.

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