



PRESS RELEASE

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Government of Iraq and United Nations Meet to Align UN Programming with the National Development Plan

Baghdad, 23 June 2009- The Government of Iraq and UN Agencies concluded today a workshop to review UN's contribution to national priorities and initially agree on the alignment of future UN programming to Iraq's National Development Plan.

Led by the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, more than 100 participants attended the two day workshop including Government Officials, members of Parliament, regional representatives, civil society organisations and representatives of UN agencies and the World Bank.

“ I am very pleased that it is the first time since 2003 that UN international staff and experts from sixteen Agencies have met together in Baghdad under the leadership of the Government of Iraq to jointly address Iraq's national priorities” said Dr. Naeema Al-Gasseer, Acting Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq. “Today marks a corner stone for the future of Iraq, where the UN reaffirmed its commitment to the Iraqi people and aligns its future programming with the Government” she added.

During the workshop, the Government reviewed the UN Iraq Assistance Strategy for 2008-2010, and provided recommendations on the way forward. It was then followed by discussions covering UN's technical contributions in: education, water and sanitation, health and nutrition, housing and shelter, agriculture and food assistance, protection, governance support and economic reform and diversification – with a special focus on human rights and gender. The objectives of the workshop directly compliment and support the work of the Government of Iraq towards its five year National Development Plan.

A four day workshop will be held in Amman between 27 and 30 June to build upon the outcomes of the Baghdad meeting to further align UN's future contributions to the realization of the National Development Plan.

For more information and media queries please contact

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