

UNOPS, GoI, CoR and NGOs Conclude Round table on Draft of Iraqi NGO Law

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), with funding support from the European Union (EU), the Government of Finland and other donors through the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund, with technical support from the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), organized in Baghdad, on 9th – 12th of May 2009 a Roundtable on draft Iraqi NGO Law.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Iraqi and international NGOs, the Ministry of State for Civil Society Affairs as well as other governmental institutions, the NGO Directorate and MPs from the Iraqi Council of Representatives, including members of the Civil Society Committee. Observers present at this meeting included representatives of UN, Baghdad based diplomatic delegations, donors and international organizations.

As a result of the Roundtable, the participants agreed on recommendations related to particular provisions of the draft NGO law. Areas where more thorough review from the CoR side would be required were also identified. All the recommendations were developed in the spirit of aligning the draft Iraqi NGO law to international best practices. The last day of the event, when the NGO law advocacy strategies were discussed, was addressed to NGOs only

The Roundtable recommendations will be handed to the Council of Representatives where the draft NGO law is currently awaiting the second reading.