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## Security Council Ends War-Related Sanctions on Iraq



At High-level Meeting Council Returns Control of Mineral Exports to Iraq. Photo: UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

In a milestone session held on 15 December 2010 and in recognition of major changes that had occurred in Iraq since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the UN Security Council ended multiple sanctions imposed on Iraq.

According to its Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2010/27) read out by Vice-President Joseph Biden of the United States, whose country held the Council Presidency in December, the Security Council adopted resolution 1957 (2010) which lifts the restrictions imposed by resolutions 687 and 707 relating to weapons of mass destruction and civilian nuclear activities. It also adopted resolution 1958 (2010) to terminate the residual activities of the Oil-For-Food program and resolution 1956 (2010), which terminates arrangements for the Development Fund for Iraq on 30 June 2011.

As for the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, the Security Council while "welcoming the progress made by the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait towards the resolution of the outstanding issues between both countries, and encouraging

their further cooperation", called "on Iraq to quickly fulfill its remaining obligations under the relevant Chapter VII Security Council resolutions pertaining to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait."

The Security Council meeting was hailed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as "a milestone for Iraq". "Today we recognize how far the country has come in key aspects of its journey to normalize its status in the community of Nations", the Secretary-General said in his address to the Security Council. He urged Iraqi leaders to follow through on their power-sharing agreements, to continue making domestic progress and to normalize its international relations, pledging continued United Nations support in all those areas. "The United Nations is eager to be part of this wide-ranging drive to normalization," the Secretary-General said, noting the full support provided by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) over the last several years.

"The Mission will continue, in accordance with its mandate, to promote political dialogue, provide constitutional support, monitor human rights, deliver humanit-

**“** You are now in the lead in your quest for a better life. The United Nations will continue to stand with you as an impartial partner... and help you find, once and for all, the path of prosperity and peace **”**

**UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, addressing the Iraqi people in his speech during the UNSC meeting of 15 December 2010**

arian assistance to Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons, help build the capacity of Iraq's electoral institutions and encourage a negotiated political agreement to disputed internal boundaries", the Secretary-General said, emphasizing that the Mission will continue to need strong political and financial support from Member States.

Addressing the people of Iraq, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated: "You are now in the lead in your quest for a better life. The United Nations will continue to stand with you as an impartial partner. We are determined to fulfill that mandate, and help you find, once and for all, the path of prosperity and peace."

Iraqi Foreign Affairs Minister Hoshiyar Zebari, hailing the Security Council meeting as a "historical" and "timely meeting" that

comes as a "demonstration of the broad support for Iraq by the international community", expressed appreciation to the efforts undertaken in this regard by the UN Secretary-General, his Special Representative for Iraq, Ad Melkert, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the UN office of Iraq at the UN Secretariat within the mandate of UNAMI.

Emphasizing that "the new Iraq is significantly different from Saddam's Iraq", he pledged that his country would continue to work for a stable and prosperous future for itself and the region, but it still needed international support. In the process leading up to the recent power-sharing agreements, all political blocs had agreed to build a State and institutions, on the basis of participation and inclusion based on the consolidation of national reconciliation and an independent judi-

ciary, he said. "The adoption of these important resolutions marks the beginning of the end of the sanctions regime and restrictions on Iraq's sovereignty, independence and recovery" he noted.

All statements made during the Security Council meeting of 15 December on the situation in Iraq can be found on the official meeting records of the Security Council (S/PV.6450):

**English**

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/PRO/N10/694/15/PDF/N1069415.pdf?OpenElement>

**Arabic**

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/PRO/N10/694/13/PDF/N1069413.pdf?OpenElement>

## SRSB Ad Melkert Engages Civil Society in Kirkuk



SRSB Ad Melkert meets with the Governor of Kirkuk Mr. Abdulrahman Mustafa. Photo: UNAMI PIO/Waseem Wastin

As part of his outreach efforts to civil society, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Iraq (SRSB), Ad Melkert, met on 26 January with approximately 70 civil society figures, men and women, including business and religious leaders, heads of non-governmental organizations, lawyers, engineers, and academics representing Kirkuk's ethnic communities, as well as members of the Kirkuk Provincial Council. Initiated by UNAMI Office in Kirkuk, the purpose of the meeting

"Now that the government formation has confirmed that all stand to gain from cooperation and consensus building, it is time to advance in defining the future of Kirkuk in the same spirit, whether the outstanding issues concern elections, power-sharing or resolving the future status and administrative boundaries. This belief brought me to Kirkuk, to conduct a series of consultations with all stakeholders", the SRSB said in his opening remarks.

was to shed light on UNAMI and UN roles and activities in Kirkuk. The meeting was also an opportunity for SRSB Melkert to engage in an interactive discussion with civil society representatives on ways to move forward in addressing the challenges facing Kirkuk and the future that lies ahead.

Participants expressed frustration over the lack of progress on pending political issues and over insufficient services. Many expressed the need for local input into finding a solution for Kirkuk. The SRSB emphasized that he sought to hold this meeting to hear the ideas of the civil society and reiterated his view that it is an opportune time to build on the consensus achieved to date, with government formation, to advance a resolution on Kirkuk's issues. He emphasized that Kirkuk's future must be built on its diversity and inclusivity, with greater women's participation. He also stressed that a political agreement on Kirkuk is crucial to achieving sustainable economic development, stressing that the UN role is to provide assistance and to work with all parties, in facilitating a resolution on the issues of relevance, however, it is Iraqis who must agree on the course of their future. ■

To read the full speech of SRSB Melkert in Kirkuk, please visit:

<http://www.uniraq.org/FileLib/misc/SRSB%20Ad%20Melkert%20speech%20in%20Kirkuk%2020110126%20EN.pdf>



Member of Civil Society addresses comment and question to SRSB Melkert. Photo: UNAMI PIO/Waseem Wastin



Member of Civil Society addresses comment and question to SRSB Melkert. Photo: UNAMI PIO/Waseem Wastin



SRSB Melkert, with his team, during a meeting with members of civil society in Kirkuk. Photo: UNAMI PIO/Waseem Wastin

## SRSG Ad Melkert Addresses International Conference in Erbil on "The role of women in peace-building, reconciliation and accountability in Iraq"

SRSG Ad Melkert took part in an International Conference on "the role of women in peace-building, reconciliation and accountability in Iraq", held in Erbil on 27 January 2011. Addressing the audience, Mr. Melkert called for the inclusion of women in Iraq in all steps of peace-building, reconciliation and nation-building to ensure that they are part of the political life and that their contributions and concerns are institutionalized and transcended through governance and legislative processes.

"If Iraq is to successfully move forward as a prosperous, democratic and inclusive society, women must be fully empowered to be a part of the process", the SRSG emphasized.

"Despite women's heightened public and economic responsibilities during the conflict in this country and specific injustices they have suffered, despite also the fact that Iraqi women were leaders in their own right in recent history, and that in 1958 Iraq had the first female Minister in the Arab region, power brokering today in the new Iraq is predominantly taking place without the presence or input of women", SRSG noted.

SRSG Melkert indicated that he was looking forward to the recommendations of the conference and reiterated the United Nations commitment to assist the government and civil society in empowering Iraq's women to be full partners in the country's peace-building, reconciliation and development processes.

To read the full speech of SRSG Melkert in Erbil, please visit:

[http://www.uniraq.org/FileLib/misc/SRSG-SPEECH%20WOMEN%20CONFERENCE Erbil 27%202011.pdf](http://www.uniraq.org/FileLib/misc/SRSG-SPEECH%20WOMEN%20CONFERENCE%20Erbil%2027%202011.pdf)

## Iraq and the United Nations Mark International Human Rights Day Across the Country



SRSG Melkert Greets and Thanks Members of Band for Persons with Disabilities. Photo: UNAMI PIO/Sarmad Al-Safy

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Iraq, Mr. Ad Melkert, and the Minister of Human Rights, Ms. Wijdan Salim, presided over a ceremony marking International Human Rights Day at UNAMI headquarters in Baghdad. The ceremony included special performances by Iraqi schoolchildren and persons with disabilities promoting the values of tolerance and respect for diversity, while highlighting the need for all Iraqis to stand up against all forms of discrimination, including that directed at the most vulnerable segments of society.

Speaking at the event, Minister Wijdan stressed that Iraq has made meaningful headway in promoting the respect, provision, and protection of human rights. She also noted that these achievements are "the first step towards building a human rights concept in Iraq. We still have much work in this area".

SRSG Melkert recognised considerable achievements by the Government of Iraq towards meeting its human rights obligations and acknowledged the significant challenges that still lie ahead. He pledged the United Nations' continued support for Iraq in meeting these challenges.

In Erbil, UNAMI marked the Day by hosting and facilitating a roundtable discussion with Parliament members, members

of judicial council and civil society organizations on discrimination in the context of Iraq's Kurdistan region. Speakers raised several concerns such as the delay in passing the law on domestic violence, threat to journalists, ineffective rule of law mechanism and lack of social services. Civil society members and parliamentarians vowed to support draft legislations on domestic violence and freedom of press and to work together on laws banning Female Genital Mutilations and supporting independent operation of civil society organizations.

On 14 December, UNAMI Human Rights Office briefed over a hundred law students at the University of Dahouk on the International Human Rights Day and gave a presentation on the Universal Periodic Review followed by a question answer session. A similar event will take place at the University of Koyasinjaq with students of law faculty.

Human Rights Day commemorates the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948. This year, human rights defenders who act to end discrimination often at great personal risk both to themselves and to their families, were recognised and acclaimed. ■

## UN-HABITAT and UNDP Support Generating Youth Employment Opportunities in Iraq



UN-HABITAT and UNDP hold a two-day workshop in Erbil, 22-23 December 2010. Photo: UN-HABITAT

UN-HABITAT in collaboration with UNDP organised and facilitated a two-day workshop in Erbil, 22-23 December 2010, to discuss with govern-

ment partners several training materials for unemployed youth in construction skills, ultimately leading to the creation of employment opportunities for both men

and women in Iraq.

The workshop was attended by 19 government participants including the Deputy Governor of Erbil and the President of the Foundation of Technical Education, in addition to a number of participants from the Ministry of Labor and Social affairs, Erbil's Chamber of Commerce and representatives from the the governorates of Dohuk, Erbil, and Suleimaniya.

The training, which is expected to start in April of 2011, will dispose of materials that include training needs for small scale construction companies for improving management and operational capacities, enhancing their working methods and helping in generating employment.

The workshop is part of the Private Sector Development which was launched in 2009 under the auspices of the Economic Recovery and Diversification Sector Outcome Team of the United Nations Country Team for Iraq. The Programme was designed in close partnership with the Government of Iraq, and public and private sector stakeholders, with the aim of working towards establishing a comprehensive framework for private sector development in Iraq. ■

## Completion of the Kareze Project in Sulaymaniyah



Karezes are ancient traditional water systems. Photo: IOM

Since March 2010, IOM, in partnership with UNESCO, has been restoring *Karezes* in the Governorate of Sulaymaniyah. *Karezes* are ancient traditional water systems which provide rural areas with irrigation and drinking water in a sustainable manner.

In this new era of modernization, the

*Karezes* were slowly forgotten in favour of water sources, which were considered more modern and efficient, such as deep wells. However, as drought and climate change further strained water resources, *Karezes* have been rediscovered as a viable and sustainable option for water in the rural areas of the Kurdistan region.

After nine months of project implementation,

IOM has completed the restoration of 15 *Karezes* in the Governorate of Sulaymaniyah thus providing easier access to drinking and irrigation water to 256 families and to 50 hectares of cultivated land in ten villages. The project also trained younger workers on the methods of restoring *Karezes*, bringing back life to an ancient profession.

IOM is seeking additional funding to continue the rehabilitation of *Karezes* in Iraq. In-doing so it aims to reduce drought-induced migration which has already contributed to the existing trend of rural-urban migration in Iraq.

However this is one of many problems including conflict, poverty and other socio-economic factors that contribute to the phenomena of migration.

IOM works closely with local authorities to monitor population displacement, whilst conducting needs assessments to identify water-related issues.

As a member of the UN Country Team (UNCT) for Iraq, IOM Iraq works closely with the United Nations system and the Iraqi authorities in support of the Iraqi National Development Plan 2010 - 2014, and is integrated into all sector outcome teams of the UNCT Coordination Structure. ■

## UNICEF Partners with IREX Board to Strengthen Reporting on Children's Rights in Iraq



Part of the UNICEF/IREX partnership is to train children interested in journalism in reporting on their rights to make their own news via written, audio and video stories. Photo: UNICEF 2007

UNICEF has signed on 6 December a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) to strengthen reporting on children's rights in Iraq. With

the present situation of child rights violations throughout Iraq, and ethical reporting on children's lives, especially of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged

UNICEF's guidance, IREX will train Iraqi journalists and media outlets on professional standards for reporting on children as well as empower children to produce content on issues they experience in their communities.

This partnership allows UNICEF and IREX to jointly train hundreds of Iraqi journalists and civil society leaders on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the role of the media in protecting and promot-

ing children's rights,

children suffering from the highest levels of deprivation.

To promote children's journalism, children with an interest in journalism will also be trained on their rights and how to make their own news via written, audio and video stories on rights violations they and other children face. These children will specifically learn how to use social media outlets and new information technology to communicate their stories to the public.

Trainings for Iraqi media professionals and civil society organizations in Erbil, Najaf and Basra are underway and will be expanded to all other governorates over the next several months. The partnership is in support of UNICEF's advocacy to ensure children's rights are protected, which presently in Iraq includes events in all governorates until the end of November to call for the creation of Child Rights Committees in commemoration of the Convention on the Rights of the Child turning 21 on November 20th. ■

## UN-HABITAT and Partners Train Iraqis in the Construction Field



UN-HABITAT and partners train Iraqis in the construction field. Photo: UN-HABITAT

UN-HABITAT and partners completed in December 2010 a series of trainings aimed at strengthening the capacity of the technical education sector in view of increasing access of youth to produ-

ctive employment in the construction fields. Between November and December 2010, UN-HABITAT, with the support of the Foundation of Technical Education (FTE), trained a total of 174 teachers from Mosul,

Kirkuk, Baghdad, Najaf and Basra.

It focused on the following five construction fields: 1) water and sanitation construction; 2) bridges and highways technology; 3) quality control and building material; 4) construction management and marketing and; 5) rehabilitation and asset management.

The Foundation of Technical Education will roll-out the training to include additional training for FTE teachers from other technical institutes in the remaining governorates, using the developed and tested training modules.

The training is part of the UN joint project 'Improving Quality and Relevance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training' (TVET) in Iraq. The project is a joint initiative with UNESCO and ILO aimed at supporting the rehabilitation and modernisation of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Sector in Iraq by re-orienting and improving the system to prepare young people to effectively partake in wage and self-employment in the industrial, construction and service sectors of the economy. ■

## UNDP Launches a Comprehensive Legal Training Programme for over 400 Iraqi Judges and Legal Officials



Justice Afif Shamseddine (former President of the Lebanon Court of Cassation – left) and Chief Justice Medhat Al-Mahmoud (right) at the launch of the comprehensive legal training programme in Erbil – Jan 2011. Photo: UNDP

The Iraqi Higher Judicial Council and UNDP Iraq have jointly launched in mid-January a comprehensive legal training programme for Iraqi Judges and legal officials in Erbil. The programme consists of 23 training courses on a range of

legal and administrative topics, supporting judges and legal staff to work most effectively on promoting justice in Iraq.

The launch was followed by a three-day course attended by over 40 Iraqi judges and

legal officials on 'Judicial Ethics and the Independence of the Judiciary', which highlighted the importance of the constitutional independence of the Iraqi judiciary, in addition to a comprehensive study on the legal and ethical duties which must be followed by Iraqi judges.

The training programme is conducted by the Arab Centre for Rule of Law and Integrity, with expert lecturers from Iraq, joined by international experts from the Arab region and beyond. Based on Iraqi domestic law and international best practices, the training courses will be held in Erbil, Baghdad and Basra on topics including arbitration, procedural law, conducting fair and just investigations, anti-corruption, human rights, family law, strategic planning, training of trainers and judicial ethics.

The programme is part of the European Union's 'Support to the Rule of Law and Justice' initiative. The Government of Spain has also supported this training programme through the Iraqi Trust Fund. ■

### News Briefs

#### Iraqi Civil Society Organizations Trained on Human Rights Reporting

Iraqi civil society representatives completed in December a series of four training sessions held in Erbil in shadow reporting to the UN human rights treaty bodies. Shadow reports, often called 'alternative reports', are submitted by civil society organizations that deal with human rights to treaty monitoring bodies at the United Nations and other international institutions in parallel with a government's official report regarding the human rights situation in a given country.

The four training courses, which took place between August and December 2010 were attended by 23 representatives of human rights organisations from across Iraq. They focused on the universal periodic review (UPR) reporting mechanisms for each human rights treaty that Iraq has signed, ratified or acceded and the role of civil society in shadow reporting. Participants were trained on legal frameworks, international standards for reporting and data collection, drafting skills and

monitoring and advocacy work as follow up to treaty body observances.

The training was delivered by experts from the Human Rights Law Centre of the UK-based Nottingham University, under the Support to Iraq's Preparations for the UPR project. The two-year UPR project started in April 2009 and is being jointly carried out by UNAMI Human Rights Office, in partnership with the United Nations Office for Project Services, with funding from the Government of Finland and the European Union through the United Nations Development Group - Iraq Trust Fund.

#### Children's Rights Events Across Iraq Conclude; Several Governorates Agree to Establish Child Rights Committees

Government officials, community leaders and thousands of children across Iraq's 18 governorates concluded on 10 December 2010 nearly three weeks of events

celebrating the 21st anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This year's events focused on a call to establish Child Rights Committees in all 18 Governorates.

In Provincial Council halls and school yards all over Iraq, children called for better protection of their rights through songs, plays, speeches and drawings. In response to Missan's Children, Parliament and the Province's Human Rights Committee chief pledged to develop mechanisms to include children in the decision making processes relating to Child Rights and to increase investments in children with the aim of accelerating the attainment of Millennium Development Goal targets in Missan.

The Chairmen of the Provincial Councils of Baghdad and Muthanna also pledged to formally institute Child Rights Committees to focus their efforts in protecting their children's rights. In Salah Al-Din, the Provincial Council vowed to include Child Welfare as an agenda item in its work plan for the coming year. And, in Qadissiya and Basra, both with pockets of acute child deprivation, the Provincial Councils recommended the establishment of these

committees. These governorates join Najaf and Kirkuk in a growing movement at the governorate level to institute such Committees.

UNICEF is working with the Government of Iraq as well as many other duty bearers across the country and in the international community to ensure Iraq's commitments to its children are upheld. UNICEF is specifically advocating with all stakeholders to adopt an equity-based approach to address as a matter of priority the needs of the most disadvantaged children who have been left behind from regular development efforts.

To learn about the Conventions on the right of the Child, please visit:

<http://www.unicef.org/crc/>

To learn more about the Narrowing the Gaps Study, please visit:

[http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Narrowing\\_the\\_Gaps\\_to\\_Meet\\_the\\_Goals\\_090310\\_2a.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Narrowing_the_Gaps_to_Meet_the_Goals_090310_2a.pdf)

## Supporting Health Services in Iraq through the Health Sector Reform Modernization Programme

As part of the implementation of the Iraq Public Sector Modernization Programme (I-PSM) phase one, The Federal Ministry of Health Iraq and the Ministry of Health Kurdistan in collaboration with WHO held a five-day meeting from 11 to 15 of January 2011 in Amman, Jordan. The meeting discussed and finalized the development of study tools and design for the health system functions and performance, and reviewing the health system in Iraq.

The meeting was attended by key policymakers and senior officials from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Higher Education, the Iraqi Parliament, International Academia, international WHO staff and consultants and representatives from UNFPA and UNICEF. Also present were key members of the I-PSM programme Ministerial Advisory Committee as well as members of the Iraqi national study team.

The participants discussed the development of study tools and design for the Functional Review and the Health System Performance Assessment exercises and the implementation modalities and

timeline for the two studies. The meeting also held a policy seminar on health systems strengthening and leadership in Iraq in view of renewing the MOH commitment to the health sector modernization programme. This allowed for an exchange and sharing of global, regional and national experiences in the health sector reform, soliciting the visions and expectations of key policy makers with regards to the reform process.

## High Commissioner for UNHCR, Guterres, Welcomes New Government of Iraq, Calls for End to Displacement Chapter

In his fourth visit to Iraq, from 22 to 24



UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, during a press conference in Baghdad, 24 January 2011. Photo: UNAMI PIO /Sarmad Al-Safy

January, UNHCR High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, met with President Jalal Talabani, Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki and Minister of Foreign Affairs Hoshiyar Zebari. He also met with Dr. Iyad Allawi, designated Chairman of the National Council for Strategic Policies.

In his meetings, Mr. Guterres proposed a Government-led national plan of action designed to create the conditions for thousands of displaced Iraqis abroad and inside the country to return home. The plan, which UNHCR would help implement, should also devise a strategy for people displaced within Iraq to integrate in the areas they fled to, if they prefer to remain where they are.

In his three-day visit, Mr. Guterres also stressed that repatriation should be entirely voluntary, referring to recent deportations

of Iraqis from a number of European countries. However, he was encouraged by the grave concern expressed by the new Government about the targeting of minority and religious groups.

Mr. Guterres visited the *Um Al-Baneen* IDP camp in central Baghdad, where 112 internally displaced Iraqi families are residing in old, damaged and abandoned military buildings. Mr. Guterres welcomed a decision by the Government to suspend their eviction until a solution can be found to relocate these families, many of whom lack documentation and any source of income.

Mr. Guterres noted that while numbers of Iraqis refugees in neighbouring countries registered with UNHCR have gone down, their vulnerability has been increasing.

## The implementation of Basic Health Service Package (BHSP) in Iraq

The WHO Iraq and the Iraqi Ministry of Health (MoH) held a two day meeting, 1-2 December 2010, in the Jordanian capital to discuss the preparations for implementation of Basic Health Service Package (BHSP) in Iraq. The steering committee of WHO Regional Advisors and MOH officials, which was chaired by the Deputy Minister for Donors and Reconstruction, was established in order to discuss and oversee the implementation of BHSP in three selected governorates.

The meeting aimed at assisting the MOH in the implementation of BHSP with special focus on the following:

- Analyzing the current situation with MoH and assisting it in drawing health policies with respect to health care delivery models;
- Discussing the BHSP and integrated district health system and ways of mutual support in the short and long run;
- Drafting a country strategy to introduce an integrated district health system (IDHS);
- Discussing the various assessment tools related to assessment of the family practice amongst others; and
- Assessing the capacity development needs of the planning and implementation of BHSP.

## UNFPA-Iraq Organizes a Planning Session for Statistical System Reform Program in Iraq

Within the framework of Iraq Public Sector Modernization program (I-PSM), UNFPA Iraq Country Office organized a two-day workshop in Amman, 15-16 January 2011, to discuss Iraq Statistical System Modernization. Senior representatives from Iraq Central Statistical Organization (CSO) and Kurdistan Region Statistical Office (KRSO), as well as representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher education, Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Agriculture from both the Federal and Kurdistan regional government attended the meeting. Relevant UN organizations participated as well. The participants discussed the scope and the mandate of the statistical reform, role of national counterparts and concluded a 12 month plan of action for the inception phase of the statistical System Modernization Project. The concept of the functional review, its dimensions, challenges and required interventions were also discussed. The I-PSM is an interagency

reform programme led by UNDP, covers four sectors: governance, health, education and water & sanitation.

## Iraq Women Integrated Social and Health Survey (I-WISH) on the Runway

UNFPA organized a high level technical meeting in Amman, 17-18 January 2011, to discuss the technical tools for *Iraq Women Integrated Social and Health Survey (I-WISH)*. Senior survey statisticians from the central statistical organization (CSO) and experts from the Ministry of Health (MoH) as well as senior national experts from Kurdistan Regional Statistical office (KRSO) participated in the meeting together with senior advisors from UNFPA, WHO, League of Arab States Pan Arab Project for Family Health (PAPFAM), national experts from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Jordan Department of Statistics (DOS). The meeting reviewed the survey questionnaire and the cross fertilization with other research initiatives in Iraq, particularly the linkage with MICS-4 supported by UNICEF. I-WISH is a household survey that approached Iraqi women on life cycle course approach and includes modules on women's health and empower-

ment, morbidity, family planning, elderly women, child females as well as violence against women (VAW). The survey is scheduled to be implemented back-to-back with MICS-4 and utilize a sub-sample of MICS-4. According to the survey plan, the final wide consultation on survey tool will take place in Cairo within the coming few weeks. The survey is planned to provide extensive data, including information, on the health of women, social status, development of women's empowerment and participation in the public life.■

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### List of UN Acronyms

There are 16 UN organisations, programmes, agencies and funds working in Iraq. They are the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO).