



**Final Statement of Twelfth IRFFI Donor Committee Meeting  
Prime Minister's Advisory Commission, Baghdad, Iraq  
18 January 2012**

The International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI) Donor Committee held its twelfth meeting in Baghdad on 18 January 2012. The Chair of the IRFFI Donor Committee, Ambassador Gert Meinecke of Denmark, welcomed the representatives from the Government of Iraq including Dr. Thamir Al-Ghadban, Chairman, Prime Minister Advisory Commission and Dr. Sami Metti, Deputy Minister of Planning, the United Nations (UN) including Mr. Martin Kobler, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq (SRSG), Ms. Christine McNab, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) in Iraq/UN Resident Coordinator and Mr. Bisrat Aklilu, Executive Coordinator, UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) as well as Ms. Marie-Hélène Bricknell, World Bank (WB) Special Representative for Iraq, and the donor community.

SRSG Martin Kobler, in his opening remarks highlighted the excellent relations and cooperation between the UN, donors and Government of Iraq (GoI). He welcomed the Government's increased ownership and commitment to co-finance development programmes in Iraq while highlighting the importance of supporting GoI in enhancing its technical capacities to be able to deliver its commitments to the people of Iraq. He closed thanking the donors for their continued commitment to supporting Iraq, as well as the UN Country Team and the World Bank for their continued endeavors.

Dr. Thamir Al-Ghadban, Chairman, Prime Minister Advisory Commission, thanked the SRSG for his insights and engagement with the GoI on a number of issues. He also expressed GoI's appreciation to the IRFFI donor committee for all its work and highlighted their continued desire to work with the international community in order to have deeper and sustained engagement with international entities, including the UN. The Partnership Committee and the cost sharing mechanism are indicative of this willingness to work with the donors.

Ambassador Gert Meinecke, Royal Danish Embassy Baghdad, and Chair of the IRFFI Donor Committee, thanked the GoI for the continued engagement and work with the donors through the IRFFI mechanism, and acknowledged the lead role of the Government. The Chair highlighted the importance of the exercise to distil lessons on the operational and development effectiveness of the United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund (UNDG ITF) in strengthening future coordination mechanisms. He stressed on the importance of continued collaboration to build on the successful experiences and to maintain good coordination for the funding mechanism.

Dr. Sami Metti, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Planning (MoP), expressed the Iraqi government's appreciation to the IRFFI Donor Committee, the United Nations and the World Bank for all the achievements and good results under the two funds the UNDG ITF and the World Bank Iraq Trust Fund (WB ITF). He also noted GoI's decision to review the National Development Plan



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2010-2014 and the preparation of a new plan for 2013-2017 that is relevant to emerging priorities and challenges in Iraq, and accordingly international support will be requested in the preparation of the new development plan.

In her remarks DSRSG and UN Resident Coordinator Christine McNab, thanked the Government and donors for their exemplary coordination and partnership, despite the challenges over the years in the operational environment. She noted that this has been the main impact of the IRFFI, providing a unified mechanism, and allowing the UN to address critical issues on a scale that would generate the desired results. She elaborated that 51 projects will continue to be implemented and therefore the IRFFI Donor Committee will continue with its annual meetings until such time that the UNDG ITF is closed. Ms. McNab further noted that the newly established "Iraq UNDAF Fund" is built on the successes of the UNDG ITF. Referring to the Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee scheduled to meet on the same afternoon, she highlighted the three projects submitted for review and approval by the Committee. She also reiterated UN's commitment to assist the GoI in the formulation of the new NDP.

Donors welcomed the UNDG ITF and the WB ITF annual progress reports. Mr. Bisrat Aklilu, Executive Coordinator, UNDP's MPTF Office indicated that the 2011 Annual UNDG ITF Progress Report will be ready on 31 May as per the agreed reporting cycle. Accordingly he presented the 2010 progress update to the IRFFI Donor Committee. As of the 31 December 2010, the UNDG ITF total gross donor deposits amounted to US\$1.36 billion with an additional \$74 million in Fund and Agency earned interest income reported bringing the total UNDG ITF portfolio to \$1.43 billion. As of 31 December 2010, the final UNDG ITF portfolio stood at 200 projects and joint programmes for a total of \$1.43 billion. The cumulative expenditures amounted to US\$1.2 billion (89 percent), while the net disbursed funding is US\$1.34 billion. Of the 200 approved projects and Joint Programmes, it was confirmed that 149 (74.5%) were operationally closed out of which 43 (29%) were financially closed.

The World Bank Special Representative to Iraq, Ms. Marie-Hélène Bricknell, presented the WB ITF 2011 interim update to the members of the IRFFI Donor Committee. The WB ITF is valued at US\$575 million – US\$494.4 million in donor deposits plus US\$80.5 million of investment income. As of December 31, 2010, the WB ITF had financed 26 projects valued at US\$532.4 million. Of these, six projects have been completed, while twenty projects are currently under implementation (valued at US\$426.4 million). These comprise six technical assistance (TA) projects executed by the WB at government request (totaling US\$27.6 million) and 14 recipient-executed operations (amounting to US\$ 393.8 million). The WB informed the Donor Committee that the independent review of the WB ITF is almost completed and the results will be shared within the coming weeks.

Mr. Richard Golding, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) presented the findings of the UNDG ITF Lessons Learned Exercise to the IRFFI Donor Committee. The exercise is undertaken in consultation with key Trust Fund stakeholders including donors, Government and the UN. The findings indicate an overall positive and successful experience, providing evidence of UN in Iraq delivering as one, with good operational efficiency and strong sectoral results. Six key principles were highlighted to guide future Multi-Partner Trust Funds: 1) prioritize the longer-term duration of Multi-Partner Trust Funds, taking into account specific security and management



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challenges; 2) appropriate stakeholder engagement in the operational management of the fund from the outset; 3) early investment in a competent Steering Committee Support Office; 4) consistent monitoring and evaluation process; 5) structured and independent review process; and, 6) faster transition to national implementation modality.

Ms. Huda Malek, Director General, Prime Minister's Advisory Commission presented GoI's reflection on the UNDG ITF experience. The Government acknowledged the findings and the lessons learned citing the overall experience as a positive one, given that it allowed for a partnership with the UN. The UNDG ITF was flexible and responsive to the requests and priorities of the GoI, and allowed GoI to exercise its ownership. She also commented on the challenges encountered, especially with respect to limitations of the Government's internal monitoring system for aid coordination, as well as the importance of quality delivery (rather than rapid spending).

Mr. Usman Akram, Resident Coordinator's Office presented how the UN has institutionalised the learning from the UNDG ITF into the design of the Iraq UNDAF Fund. He highlighted that the fund integrates the principles of harmonization, alignment, national ownership, accountability, and management for results in its governance structures and operational procedures. He further emphasized that Iraq UNDAF Fund has an increased government ownership, as well as a simplified participatory and more accountable governance structure at the strategic and operational levels.

The next Donor Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 2012 and the exact date will be communicated later.

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Annexes (available at: <http://www.irffi.org> and <http://mdtf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/ITF00>):

1. List of Participants
2. UNDG ITF Progress Update as of 31 December 2010
3. World Bank ITF Progress Update as of 31 December 2011