



**Iraq United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)  
Fund Steering Committee Meeting**  
14 June 2011

Co-Chairs: Dr. Thamir Al-Ghadban, Prime Minister's Advisory Commission  
Ms. Christine McNab, DSRSG/RC/HC

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**Participants** (see attached list)

The Government of Iraq (GoI) Chair welcomed the representatives of the Government of Iraq, the UN, and the donor community to the meeting. The GoI-Chair expressed enthusiasm of the Government of Iraq in being engaged with the new Iraq UNDAF Fund, and pledged a strong and effective involvement. The GoI-Chair further noted that the UNDAF is closely aligned with the Government's National Development Plan, and that the Government is supportive of the One UN approach to programming, which ensures coherence, efficiency and strong Government ownership. The Government is determined to take a strong leadership role in coordination of development assistance, and in that regard, a government Partnership Committee has been established to ensure synergies between development aid and national priorities. The GoI-Chair informed the participants of its intention to request that all forthcoming development assistance projects will be subject to review and approval of the Partnership Committee, in accordance with recommendations by the relevant line Ministries. The GoI-Chair then invited the UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General for Iraq and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (UN DSRSG/RC/HC) to give an opening statement.

The UN DSRSG/RC/HC thanked the participants, and noted that the co-Chairing of the Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee with the Government of Iraq is a good symbol of a strong partnership, in accordance with the Paris Declaration Principles. The UNDAF Fund is successor to the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund (ITF), aiming to fulfill a funding gap and ensure transparency in UNDAF implementation. As of January 2011, the UNDAF is 27% funded, including carried over funds from the UNDG ITF, UN Agencies core resources, and bilateral funding. The Iraq UNDAF Fund has around \$2.9 million, including the first bilateral contribution by the Scottish Government and the unspent, returned

and interest earned from the UNDG ITF. The Government of Iraq has a leadership role in both UNDAF and the Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committees for greater alignment, effectiveness and mutual accountability. Both Steering Committees are co-chaired by Government of Iraq and the UN, with membership from Government of Iraq ministries and UN Agencies. However, the Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee also includes two donors representing the donor community (United States Agency for International Development and an additional donor).

The GOI-Chair thanked the DSRSG and informed the participants that discussions are ongoing with the Ministry of Finance regarding Government co-financing. The Government of Iraq values its interaction with the international community, not only in terms of the financial contribution, but also in terms of access to knowledge and experiences available within the UN and the donor partners.

### **1. UNDAF Steering Committee, Terms of Reference, Membership, and Standard Operational Procedures**

The Head of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) and Steering Committee Support Office (SCSO) introduced the Terms of Reference for the Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee and Rules of Procedure. Given that the membership composition is the same for the UNDAF Steering Committee and the Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee, the meetings will be combined to the extent possible on a quarterly basis. The Committee will be supported by the SCSO.

The GOI-Chair thanked the Head of UN RCO/SCSO for his presentation and opened the discussion to other participants. The USAID Representative complimented the UN on producing a clear document, and expressed confidence in the Steering Committee mechanism that will be a valuable contribution to the range of available coordination mechanisms. The representative of the Prime Minister's Advisory Commission (PMAC) requested that the Terms of Reference should acknowledge the role of Partnership Committee in the programme approval process. The Deputy Minister of Planning noted that it would be important to clarify the division of responsibilities between the government stakeholders to coordinate international development assistance. He further added that the Cabinet has been requested to clarify the division of responsibility between the Ministry of Planning and the Partnership Committee in terms of donor and aid coordination. The DSRSG/RC/HC emphasized that the partnership on UNDAF implementation is a dynamic process, and suggested that a reference to the Partnership Committee will be added to the Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee's Terms of Reference. The GoI-Chair also added

that the Government is already well represented and is Co-Chairing the Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee.

Following the discussion, the Co-Chairs confirmed the adoption of documents under consideration.

## **2. Criteria for allocation of un-earmarked funds**

The Senior Portfolio Manager of the Iraq UNDAF Fund representing the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) Office gave an overview of the current UNDAF Fund funding framework, noting that all the relevant information is available via the MDTF Gateway (<http://mdtf.undp.org/>) in real time. She further informed the Steering Committee of the need to agree on the criteria for allocating un-earmarked funds. This is usually a two-tiered process: 1) based on proportionality and priorities; and 2) at project level, based on projects/programmes that are submitted for approval. New and additional criteria can be developed, if needed.

The GoI-Chair invited comments and feedback from the participants. The DSRSG/RC/HC emphasized that UN agencies should encourage their respective donors to provide funding through the Iraq UNDAF Fund. This would allow for more transparency and coordination with other projects that are receiving funding. The Deputy Representative of Denmark noted that the current level of funding in the Iraq UNDAF Fund is disappointing, and encouraged more contributions from donors. He emphasized the enthusiastic support of the Danish Government for the Iraq UNDAF Fund, and informed the participants of the latest contribution from Denmark that would increase the current funding in the UNDAF fund by five fold. The GoI-Chair encouraged other donors to follow the example set forth by the Danish government.

The representative of the Ministry of Finance informed the participants that 250 billion Iraqi dinars have been allocated in the 2012 National Budget for co-financing of development projects through the Partnership Committee. The representative of PMAC further elaborated that this allocation is a temporary measure and that the future co-financing will be based on projects within the Capital Investment Programme and those projects that are selected by the line ministries. The representative of UNDP informed the participants that justification for the funds allocated by the Ministry of Finance has been submitted to the Council of Representatives, in anticipation of its approval. The representative of the Ministry of Planning expressed satisfaction that the allocation has been decided on, and recalled that funding should be utilized in a coordinated manner and with joint oversight.

The GoI-Chair emphasized that the Government of Iraq is fully committed to contributing to development projects, and expressed optimism that this year's request will be passed by the Council of Representatives.

### **3. Review and Approval of the UNDG Joint Programme on "Development of National Framework for Integrated Drought Risk Management in Iraq"**

Following the comprehensive presentation of the first Joint Programme on "Development of National Framework for Integrated Drought Risk Management in Iraq", the GoI-Chair thanked the Environment PWG Co-Chair and noted that the programme has the full support of the Ministry of Agriculture. The GoI-Chair also thanked the Government of Scotland for their contribution. The DSRSG/RC/HC expressed satisfaction that the first programme to be funded from the Iraq UNDAF Fund is in the area of Environment given the efforts to reflect it as an area of priority within the UNDAF.

The Deputy Minister of Planning requested to include Ministry of Planning as one of the partner ministries in this multi-sectoral programme given its overall role in coordinating the work of all ministries. The programme was endorsed without comments but with agreement that it will also be shared with the Partnership Committee.

In closing, the DSRSG/RC/HC noted that the development environment in Iraq is complex, and that the Steering Committee allows for the UN's and the international community's specific contributions to Iraq's national priorities. While the meeting provided for an important discussion about co-financing and government leadership, the partnership between the Government and the international community is ultimately about the people of Iraq, who still live in poor conditions and are affected daily by local as well as global challenges.

The GoI-Chair closed the meeting by acknowledging that the Ministry of Planning still has an important role in aid management but reiterated the role of the PMAC in carrying out high level coordination between Government and the international community under the leadership of the Partnership Committee.

## List of Participants

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Organization</b>
1	Mr. Thamar Ghadban (Co-Chair)	Prime Ministers Advisory Commission
2	Ms. Christine McNab (Co-Chair)	DSRSG/RC/HC – UNAMI
3	Dr. Sami Metti	Ministry of Planning
4	Ms. Taif Same	DG Budget, Ministry of Finance
5	Mr. Istabraq Alshouk	Ministry of Construction and Housing
6	Mr. Mohammed Djleid	UNESCO
7	Dr. Jaffer Hussain Syed	WHO
8	Ms. Kristina Peduto	UNICEF
9	Mr. Sudipto Mukerjee	Co-Chair Environment PWG, UNDP
10	Mr. Salam Abisamra	Co-Chair Environment PWG, FAO
11	Ms. Huda A. Malik	Prime Ministers Advisory Commission
12	N. K. Al-Bayati	Prime Ministers Advisory Commission
13	Dr. Hadi Al Mohammed	Director, Secretariat for International Partnership, Deputy PMO
14	Dr. Hassan Akif	Deputy Prime Minister's Advisor
15	Dr. Abdulhussain Alanbaki	Prime Minister's Economic Advisor
16	Dr. Hussein Jabir	Prime Minister's Agriculture Advisor
17	Mr. Edam S. Allwan	DG, Ministry of Housing & Construction
18	Mr. Henrik Westerby	DPM, Danish Embassy
19	Mr. Alex Dickie	Mission Director, USAID
20	Ms. Rodeine Fattah	Director, Capacity Building Office, USAID
21	Ms. Michele Russell	Health Officer, USAID
22	Mr. Christian Nilsson	Second Secretary, Embassy of Sweden
23	Mr. Bisrat Aklilu	Executive Coordinator, MDTF Office, UNDP
24	Ms. Dawn Del Rio	UNDG ITF Senior Portfolio Manager , MDTF Office, UNDP
25	Mr. Jens Wandel	UNDP
26	Mr. Moin Karim	Head RC/SCSO, RCO
27	Ms. Daniel Augstberger	Chief HAO, UNAMI
28	Mr. George Papagiannis	UNESCO
29	Mr. Christopher Paul Maroshegyi	UNESCO
30	Ms. Simona Marinescu	UNDP
31	Mr. Richard Cox	UNDP
32	Ms. Nadiah Jouhari	UNDP
33	Dr. Eswara Prasad	UNDP
34	Mr. Usman Akram	M&E Advisor, RCO
35	Ms. Bana Kaloti	SCSO M&E Specialist, RCO
36	Ms. Karin Mclennan	Humanitarian Affairs Officer, UNAMI
37	Ms. Dima Sweidan	SCSO Officer, RCO
38	Ms. Marija Ignjatovic	Coordination Specialist, RCO
39	Mr. Bashar Al Ali	SCSO Programme Specialist, RCO
40	Mr. Ala Al Daagir	UNAMI