

In the name of God, the Merciful

Ladies and Gentlemen, Your Excellency, representatives and members of the partaking delegations

Peace be with you and may you all be blessed.

I want to greet everyone here today at the conference of Better Cities for Better Life, which was organized by the city of Prague.

I am honoured to be able to mediate warm greetings from the city of Baghdad. People of Baghdad appreciate and strongly support the development of the regional cooperation with the allied cities, which try to promote the values of peace and pursue the growth of building and construction with a bright future for its inhabitants.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is no doubt that the conference with all its participants is going to facilitate great opportunities for building global partnerships between the countries and cities that are part of the United Nations.

We are honoured to be participating at this international forum and it is our honest hope to improve the prospects of the fruitful development together with the countries and cities of the allied organizations. We wish to achieve the aims of exchanging experience and professional knowledge, which will all be positively reflected in development and building of our cities and their modernization.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The aim of this conference is to build and strengthen the partnership between our representatives and to support cooperation and communication as well as to discuss the current economic and social issues. Likewise, we would like to discuss the possibilities of planning a long-term partnership along with the projects in the field of the environment and industrial investments with the goal of a permanent progress in our countries and cities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to portray some of the features of contemporary Baghdad, which has experienced a remarkable growth at various economic levels. One of our goals is to improve the sector of services, which is an area that has long been neglected. The next aim is to enhance public safety, which has been insufficient in the past years and therefore have had a negative impact on the entire country. In this regard, the Magistrate of Baghdad is fully aware of its responsibilities for the development and improvement in the area of services and public safety in the city of Baghdad.

Currently, the Baghdad Magistrate, being aware of the qualities, tradition and rich history of the ancient city, is pursuing all the goals that it has determined in the field of enhancing the quality of life in the city. With this target in mind, it is nowadays running multiple strategic projects and repairing works in order to achieve redevelopment and progress of the city.

To meet the targets, we are employing various international companies, especially in the area of building the infrastructure. Different companies are working in different fields and this cooperation is taking place on the basis of past contracts. We aim to promote these projects and, where possible, to extend them further.

Our first priority is to sustain and further develop a project with the target to provide drinking water in Baghdad at least up until the year 2030.

What we mean by various projects are those regarding sanity sewers and sewage treatment, protecting the environment, recycling, expansion of the green spaces, protection of the cultural heritage and history, taking care of tourists, building roads, bridges and tunnels, a sophisticated transport system and many others.

We make great endeavours to provide clean environment and ensure the status of the city of Baghdad, which has great history and magnificent cultural heritage. Baghdad is an ancient city that is a very important centre of intellectual and cultural tradition of the Arab world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to emphasize that Baghdad is aware of the importance of protecting the environment. These days it is very close to finishing a project in the integrated system of control, which includes laboratories for waste management and recycling. It is the biggest centre of its kind in the Near East and is run by the Afnan Turkish company with the aim of enhancing the environment situation in the capital city of Baghdad. It is mainly focused on recyclable waste and its appropriate use for organic fertilizers. The elimination of the remaining waste does not have an effect on the soil or the groundwater. The goal is to provide a complete protection of the environment with 9 plants in the general area of Baghdad and also to build 5 new plants, which will be constructed in the near future. Another goal we are thriving to achieve is to lower the pollution in rivers and other watercourses and the sources of water and to benefit from the cleaning in a way of using it for agricultural purposes. In this regard, the continuation and completion of two projects focusing on sustainable acquisition of clean water and preventing its pollution is crucial.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome new companies that are interested in contributing to the cultivation of the capital of Iraq and are considering the investment opportunities in our country.

There are many opportunities for investments and development in Iraq. Particularly, there is a room for making international contracts with Iraq regarding realization of projects in the area of industry and building new housing.

To conclude, I would like to personally thank you on my behalf, on the behalf of the Iraqi delegation and on behalf of Baghdad to all of you who were involved in making this international forum happen, because we are certain that this conference can only be of benefit to our nations. I believe that many useful decisions and suggestions will be made, which all the parties will benefit from. We always feel warmly welcome and very much appreciate the hospitality of this country.

Peace be with you and may God have mercy on us.