

**The Speech of Head of the Delegation of the Republic of Iraq for the  
(26) session of Governing Council of the United Nations Human  
Settlements Programme**

**Nairobi-Kenya / 8-12 May 2017**

**Dr. Ann Nafi Aussi Balbool**

**Minister of Construction, Housing and Public Municipalities**

**Honorable chairman of the 26th session of the Governing Council of  
the United Nations Human Settlements Programme:**

**Honorable Executive Director of the United Nations Human  
Settlements Programme:**

**Excellences:**

**Before I start my national statement, I would like to declare that the  
Iraqi delegation supports fully the statement presented by the  
delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the G77 and China group.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

I am pleased to see you again at the twenty-sixth session of the  
Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme  
held in this beautiful city ( Nairobi) and would like to express on behalf  
of the Government of the Republic of Iraq our gratitude and appreciation  
for your kind invitation to us as a member of the Governing Council of  
the United Nations Human Settlements Programme until the end of 2018.  
This will give us the opportunity to communicate and fulfill our role in  
strengthening relations with our regional and international partners in  
making the international Habitat resolutions and contributing in viewing  
available opportunities for effective implementation of the new urban  
agenda through the development and supporting the policy objectives  
and determining priorities of existing programs to achieve the goals of the  
United Nations Human Settlements Program towards better urban future  
and strive to achieve goal no. (11) of the Sustainable Development  
Agenda to make cities : integrated, safe, resilient and sustainable for all.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

As you remember, we met two years ago at the 25<sup>th</sup> session when Iraq  
was facing of a terrorist attack of (Daesh entity ) that claimed lives of

thousands of people and displaced hundreds of thousands families from Iraqi cities and governorates. The number of the Iraqi displaced people (according to the latest statistics of the I.O. M. exceeded 3.5 Million person. This huge number put Iraq in the face of a real humanitarian disaster represented by the violation of human rights, the threat to the local peace and security, in addition to the disruption of the construction plans and development and diverted national resources to meet the basic needs of displaced people, in addition to physical losses of more than 50 billion dollars, and the crimes against religious minorities living in those areas (more than 400,000 people), sexual slavery and genocide against Yezidis, the forced displacement of Christians from their land which was accompanied with looting and destruction of archaeological sites, which represents the oldest human civilizations of Mesopotamian which is one of the worlds human heritage.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Iraq has made great progress in liberating its territory from a terrorist group (Daesh) by The Iraqi army and police, with the participation of the sons of Iraq, public pack, the tribal forces and the Peshmerga with a vital support from the international allied forces to drive out (Dassh) from most of the lands and territories occupied by them. The return of the displaced people to their lands and cities will be soon. However, this liberation will raise a big challenge, as you know, that the return and coexistence again in these liberated cities implements the need to consolidate peace and social security, the restoration of the social fabric to what was before, in addition to many reconstruction and development efforts. The process of transition to peace remains fragile in its early stages for post conflict local communities, which often suffer from weakness or lack of capacity at all levels. Government institutions and infrastructure are destroyed, the culture of democracy is almost non-existent, in addition to the absence of good governance, law and respect for human rights, as well as the poverty, the spread of diseases, and lack of education.

Responding to post-conflict situations must go beyond limited national interventions to an international integrated plan of action, with momentum and support to ensure peace, and pave the way for the re-establishment of life and building, and the achievement of sustainable development standards in those urban areas.

Recalling to what was presented at the sixth Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference held in India and the Conference of Arab Ministers of Housing and Construction held in Saudi Arabia in December 2016, we call for the mobilization of international humanitarian and technical assistance to Iraq and all post-conflict countries in order to create a safe, integrated, resilient and sustainable human settlements while ensuring that no one is left behind. In this context, I would like to point out that Iraq has submitted a draft resolution to enhance the role of United Nations Human Settlements Programme in urban crises hoping to receive your support and endorsement to the resolution during this session.

In line with the theme of this Conference (Opportunities for Effective Implementation of the New Urban Agenda), the Government of Iraq stresses the importance of urban crises management during conflicts and beyond, as well as to crises caused by natural disasters in order to provide a better life for humans.

**Finally, I take this opportunity to emphasize once again the full support of Iraq to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and its Governing council at all levels ... Thank you**

The Republic of Iraq

National Habitat Committee of Iraq

Baghdad/ 2017