

Address of the  
**The Republic of Iraq**

in the

**Second South Summit of the  
Group of 77 and China**

Presented by

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Deputy Prime Minister

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*In the name of God, the most merciful and compassionate!*

It is a great pleasure to address this august assembly. Allow me, first to congratulate H.H. the Prince of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani for his election as president of this summit, which reflects our confidence in his wisdom and ability to guide our conference towards success. We trust that we will come out with positive decisions, which will be in the interest of the welfare of our peoples. I would also like to express my deepest thanks and gratitude to the H.H. the Prince, the people, and government of Qatar, for their kind invitation, warm welcome and generous hospitality.

*Mr. President*

First, I would like to apologize, on behalf of H.E. President Jalal Talabani for not being able to participate personally in this Summit, due to urgent preoccupations back at home. I have the honor to deliver, on his behalf, the address of Iraq which is now witnessing a new era in its history, following the fall of the dictatorship; a new era with new values for democratic life, respect for human rights and institutions and the rule of law.

After decades of oppression and devastating wars, an elected National Assembly chosen by the people of Iraq, and a government comprising the different components of the Iraqi people, are leading Iraq and working on the writing of a permanent constitution for the country; a constitution that will guarantee the rights and obligations of all the people and safeguards their dignity. However, the powers of evil and darkness do not want for this political process to succeed, and are fighting to abort it and prevent it from coming to fruition, by using despicable terrorist means aimed at innocent civilians, and the institutions of the state.

I would like to assure you from this forum that the new Iraqi leadership is totally determined to continue working diligently for the success of the poetical and constitutional processes, until we arrive at our destination in installing a democratic, pluralist, parliamentary, and federal system of government, so that Iraq will be a factor of stability in its regional and international environment.

*Mr. President*

We would like stress the importance of the South-South co-operation. However, it should not be at the expense of our co-operation with the North, but rather be a precursor and a prerequisite to the success of that co-operation in a way that serves the vital interests of our nations.

We strongly believe in the necessity and importance of our co-operation, and consequently in taking the necessary steps to turn it into a reality on all levels. In this context we stress the importance of exchanging our experiences and making use of the successful lessons learnt. We also, recognize the need for more exploration and development of the potential of co-operation between the countries of the South on the national, regional, and international levels.

For our co-operation to be fruitful, we must adopt a policy of economic reforms, which will lead to the creation of real opportunities of co-operation between our countries. These reforms must be aimed at improving the environment for investment, and creating the necessary conditions for innovation, to enhance sustainable development, making policies such as privatization more feasible and less painful to the society does this. This can be achieved by enlarging the role of the private sector and NGOs in the transformation process, as well as by creating the appropriate environment for capital movement on the basis of transparency and accountability.

*Mr. President,*

In light of all this, and of our conviction of the necessity of co-operation between our countries in practical terms, the government of my country, despite the unfavorable conditions we are going through now, has already laid the groundwork for economic reforms by promulgating the required legislations to improve the economic environment, provide the necessary assurances to foreign investments and allowing foreign ownership of industrial, service and other enterprises, as well as for banks (with limited exceptions in the minerals sector). It is expected that these legislations be adopted in their final form with the development of the political process in my country.

Recognizing the importance of these steps, the international Community has rewarded Iraq by accepting it as an observer member in World Trade Organization. The negotiations for its full membership have begun. We see this as the first step toward full membership, and an important step for Iraq to resume its active role on the international level.

In addition, and in recognition of Iraq's economic potential, and in support of the new democratic political transformations, as well as to help Iraq overcome its present difficult situation, the international community has rallied to help Iraq, as witnessed by the decision by the Paris Club to forgive 80 % its debts, and the financing of various projects in Iraq by contributions from the EU, USA, Japan and

other countries. In this context, we hope that other creditor countries will follow the example of the Paris Club.

In the context of international support, we are also looking forward to the success of the international conference that will be held in Brussels, on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month. It will be led by Iraq, the USA, and the EU, with participation by more than 80 countries and international organizations. This conference will be an important step in supporting the political process and economic recovery in Iraq, contributing to its reconstruction, security, and helping preserve of its unity and sovereignty.

*Mr. President*

Iraq supports the hard efforts deployed to strengthen and reform the United Nations Organization and to meet the challenges of the Millennium Declaration, including the items concerning development, peace, and security. Iraq, also, supports the process of enlarging and reforming the Security Council to enhance its legitimacy, effectiveness, and credibility. In this context, we commend the work of the open working group in studying these issues, on the basis of the report of the Secretary General Mr. Kofi Anan entitled "in Larger Freedom"

Iraq is considering the position to adopt, according to its own convictions and objectives regarding the improvement of the international organization in harmony with international consensus. We have been undertaking dialogue with important countries and organizations, in particular the Group of 77 and China, the non-Aligned Movement, the Arab league, and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Iraq agrees that the process of reform should be comprehensive covering the various aspects of the functions of the UN including economic, social, security, and humanitarian issues. Hence, the process of reforming the international organization should include all its agencies and activities.

*Mr. President*

Finally, I wish for this conference full success, and that it should form another step to enhance consensus and co-operation between the countries of the South.

Thank you