

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



مَهْمُورٌ بِرَبِّهِمْ
رَبِّكَ أَلَيْسَ بِالْحَكِيمِ
وَالرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

كُوْنُوا رِجَالًا
سَادَةً لِكُوْمَارِكُمْ
رَبُّكُمْ

Speech of President of Iraq Jalal Talabani before the General Assembly, 15, 09, 2005 New York

Mr President,
Mr Secretary-General of The United Nation,
Esteemed Heads of the Participating State,

Al-Salam u Alaikum,

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to convey the greetings and appreciations of the government and the people of my country Iraq. Here, I want to remember with you its achievements since the dawn of history. It is the place where writing was invented; the first legislations were drafted; and the will of the human being materialised in establishing great civilizations, the influence of which spread around the world and became a benchmark in the history of humanity.

Ladies and gentlemen, today's Iraq is once again standing on its feet as a partner in an international order. within this order, all of us hope to entrench the principles of balance and justice and create an international dimension for development. A dimension that reflects our joint responsibilities in facing terrorism, poverty, environmental imbalance, unemployment, marginalization, irrational use of wealth and resources, the violations of human rights; impulses of aggression and destruction and other challenges that face our modern world. All these make us partners at good and bad times.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The experience of Iraq over three decades reflects the characteristics of a unique experience and historical lesson in its indications and results. This can be summarised in one sentence: Development is the other face of freedom and democracy. It is the other face of the human, the society and state. Hence, a system of good governance that respects human rights and stands on democratic foundations is the only one that realises development in its meaning of creating more choices for the human being.

Despite the fact that Iraq had enough human and material resources, the dictatorial regime, that ruled it for these decades, turned development into fictitious structures and fabricated propaganda reports. It committed crimes of genocide against the Iraqi people in Kurdistan - in areas such as Halbjah; and in the south during the popular Uprising. It launched wars against its neighbours. It also failed to manage the relations between the forces that represent society on the basis of a just democratic system. It also wasted the wealth of the country.

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The regime was a heavy burden on the history, present and future of Iraq. It was a bad example of regimes in a world that realised that dictatorships can turn from a local threat to a regional and perhaps an international one. This was exactly what happened in the case of Saddam's dictatorship.

As we are trying to reform and rebuild what dictatorship has destroyed in Iraq, we also call for reforms in the United Nations that include all its institutions, in a way that strengthens the UN's role in keeping international security and peace; and also achieves international cooperation in the economic, cultural and social fields. It should also respect the principles of equality in state sovereignty. Reform can be done through consensus of views and international stances. It should also be the base for activating the role of the General Assembly in keeping international peace and security by setting the mechanisms that can guarantee the respect and implementation of its resolution.

We think that reforming the Security Council should secure more transparency and participation of non-Security Council members. The expansion of membership should achieve justice and fairness in the representation of the member-states by setting the criteria for the use of veto and by stressing the accuracy and fairness of the criteria and principles by which members of the Security Council are chosen.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The other face of Iraq's experience represents a great lesson. Since 1991, Iraqi Kurdistan region in the north has managed to get rid of dictatorship and achieve successful development programmes accompanied by a democratic parliamentary system and a rational investment of resources - despite their lack – it also managed to have an effective influence for civil society organisations in addition to economic, political and cultural openness to the world.

The experience of Iraqi Kurdistan shows that human development can not continue or achieve the desired results in a society that injustice and human-rights violations are present. It also shows that democracy and freedom are two essential conditions for economic, environmental and cultural development.

To stress this, I would like to salute you in the other official language of Iraq, Kurdish: [Kurdish] Dear participants, I would like to convey the greetings of the people of Iraqi Kurdistan, who are part of Iraq, to you. It is a source of our pride that Iraqi Kurdistan become a model for democratic experience, rehabilitation and economic, cultural and



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social development, just like when it was a fortress for free Iraqis in their struggle against dictatorship.

It proves the fact the free and democratic people can set a model for development in every aspect. [End Kurdish]

Today, Iraq has managed to get rid of that regime after the war of liberation. The experience of Kurdistan is now available for every governorate in Iraq. But at the same time, making use of this experience requires getting rid of the remnants of backwardness that other areas of Iraq are suffering from.

In order for the national experience to move ahead on a clear path and with clear goals, redistributing authority should be on the basis of democracy and the fair distribution of wealth in a way that guarantees all the rights of the citizens without discrimination or marginalization.

But this is not an easy task. Today, Iraq is facing one of the most brutal campaigns of terror at the hands of the forces of darkness. They are killing hundreds of Iraqis, destroying their wealth and trying their best to stop their march towards the just goals of rebuilding their country through building a constitutional and fair regime that is under popular scrutiny. This is in addition to rehabilitating Iraq's relations with its neighbours and the world.

The terrorism that targets the Iraqi individual has declared a war of annihilation against innocent civilians. Hence, it targets every ambition of development. Furthermore, they want to make Iraq a base that threatens on both regional and international levels and also a centre for terrorism.

Iraq's war on terror requires diverse international help not only for the sake of Iraq but also for the sake of the whole world. Hence, it is Iraq's just right to build its modern, democratic and federal state. In achieving that, Iraq has the right to look towards its friends in the international community and to international debt agencies to write off its debts and review the current compensation programme and provide economic expertise that will enable the country to avoid the negative effects of moving towards market economy.

Development as a planned and organised effort, needs a secure environment, it also needs investors with multiple resources, as we are in a world that gets smaller, more open with interests intertwined. Development will become an expression of partnership with



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rational and futuristic dimensions through which experiences and investments are exchanged in a free market that has clear mechanisms.

Undoubtedly, all of you know that Iraq is trying to become a member of the World Trade Organization and that it has opened the way for the private sector to become a true partner in the process of rebuilding Iraq. It has also provided civil society organizations to work as a building tool. That scrutinises the work of the government without conflicting with it.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Iraq has risen out the ashes of dictatorship with all its backwardness , wasting of resources and mistreating of its people.

Now, we are opening our arms to the world today with the hope that the world understands the value and the importance of Iraq's experience in fighting terrorism and its rejection of the terrorist's backward ideology; it is deterrent to rebuild its present and future with patience, determination and on the basis of human rights and democracy.

From this platform we stress that Iraq is now free, thanks to the will and awareness of the people of Iraq, the sincerity of their friends, the help of the international organizations and the coalition's war of liberation under the leadership of the United States of America.

Esteemed participants,

The experience of Iraq is rich with all its lessons and results, either during the struggle against dictatorship or today.

Iraq is not hesitant to openly and frankly say that we are in desperate need of your expertise, your investments; and your moral support for its efforts to fight terrorism and for its administrative and legal measures to face dangerous problems such as drugs, homeless children, unemployment, poverty and child abduction, etc.

The shape of a democratic, pluralistic and federal Iraq is not quite clear yet. Democracy, mutual respect and fair distribution of power all need time.

Lastly, I urge you from this free platform to participate in rebuilding Iraq on the basis of partnership and mutual feeling of responsibility and respect and based on the rational of distribution of interests.



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We should know that rebuilding Iraq is the undoubted defeat of terrorism that has become a danger to humanity and to civilization. We should also be sure that their actions put the international family before an uncertain future.

I thank you and can not but wish you success, because we are all partners in failure and in success.

Thank you.