

Chair's Summary
Fourth IRFFI Donor Committee Meeting
19 July 2005

1. The fourth meeting of the IRFFI Donor Committee was held at the Dead Sea, Jordan on 19 July 2005 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Michael Bell of Canada and the active support of H. E. Minister Barham Salih, Iraqi Minister of Planning and Development Cooperation and with the participation of the United Nations, the World Bank and delegates of the 19 member countries.
2. The committee welcomed the participation of Denmark as a full member, having pledged a total of US\$10 million to the UN Trust Fund. The Committee also welcomed all the generous pledges made to IRFFI and to the reconstruction of Iraq (see Annex).
3. Building on the conclusions of the Expanded IRFFI Donor Meeting of 18 July 2005 the Donor Committee received and took note of the first progress reports of the UN and the World Bank on their Trust Fund supported activities for the period of 1 July 2004 to 31 December 2005, as well as progress achieved to the end of June 2005. The reports provided updates of achievements, challenges encountered and lessons learned by the ITF operations in Iraq.
4. On the request of the UNDG, the Committee discussed and accepted decisions related to a number of issues including: reporting requirements, use of interest earned on donor deposits, and funding for the UNDP lessons learned exercise.
5. The UNDG provided an updated review of the cluster system model and, with the Iraq government, a status report of the Donor Assistance Database.
6. To strengthen the focus and impact of resources in the Trust Funds, the Minister of Planning and Development Cooperation suggested that the remaining and newly allocated funds be utilized towards a number of short term – six month – priorities. The Donor Committee took note of the recommendations and applauded the moves toward increased focus for reconstruction by the Iraqi government.
7. Both the Iraqi government and donors stressed the critical role of women to the reconstruction of Iraq. It was noted that women's empowerment and gender equality are essential to Iraq's democratic development. Particular emphasis was placed on the need to support the participation of civil society, including women, in the constitutional drafting process.
8. The Canadian government offered a proposal for a multi-donor stocktaking exercise, building on the work already done by the UN and the World Bank. The exercise will help to better review the results achieved by IRFFI to date. Broad support was expressed for the proposal and a subcommittee was struck.

9. The Donor Committee is considering modifications to the IRFFI structures to ensure that they are consistent with the donor coordination mechanism proposed by the Iraqi government at the Expanded Donor Meeting held on 18 July 2005. These modifications will be considered as adopted in 2 weeks unless reservations are expressed, following consultations in donor capitals.

10. The Iraq government requested that the next IRFFI Donor Committee meeting be held in Erbil, Iraq. The Government of Turkey also extended an offer to host the next meeting. The meeting is scheduled to take place in February 2006.