

Press Release:

The 6th IRFFI Donor Committee Meeting

Monday, 29 October 2007: The Government of Italy hosted the 6th *International Reconstruction Facility Fund for Iraq* (IRFFI) meeting in Bari, Italy. Co-chaired by Italy and Iraq, the purpose of the meeting was to review the Iraq Trust Funds administered by the World Bank and the United Nations. It also examined the current situation in Iraq and the lessons learned since the establishment of IRFFI in 2003 when the Madrid conference took place.

The Minister of Planning of Iraq Dr. Ali Baban, co-chairing the meeting, highlighted how the goal of increasing and strengthening Iraqi ownership in setting out priorities and policy directions has been met successfully by the adoption of new TORs by the IRFFI Donor Committee, and by establishing an Executive Committee under the chairmanship of Iraq.

On behalf of the Donor Committee, the co-chairs, the Iraqi Minister of Planning and Minister Plenipotentiary Gianludovico de Martino, expressed satisfaction for the accomplishments achieved and outcomes of the meeting, in particular by setting out in the final statement the tasks to be undertaken by the newly established Executive Committee by 15 December 2007. This includes a review of available funds; to provide the Donor Committee with an outline of priority sectors and projects and to prepare a review of the possibilities of co-financing projects with Iraqi resources.