

Draft Public Statement for Abu Dhabi Meeting

1. A preparatory meeting of the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI), at the senior technical level, was held in Abu Dhabi on February 28-29, 2004 at the invitation of the United Arab Emirates on behalf of major aid donors to Iraq, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Group, and the Iraqi Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation.
2. The Facility was established by the International Donors' Conference on Reconstruction in Iraq in Madrid in October 2003. It has recently begun operations under the joint administration of the World Bank and the United Nations Development Group to help coordinate and channel contributions to Iraq's reconstruction by the international community in close cooperation with the Iraqi authorities and donors.
3. The donors reiterated their commitment to follow through with pledges made at the Madrid Donors Conference and to help the Iraqi people during their period of transition and rehabilitation.
4. Officials of [38] countries that pledged assistance to Iraq at the Madrid Conference and the World Bank and United Nations attended the meeting. The Iraqi delegation was headed by Minister of Planning and Development Cooperation, Dr. Mehdi al Hafedh.
5. Minister Hafedh presented an overview of Iraq's development priorities for 2004 as determined by the Iraqi Strategic Review Board, in cooperation with relevant Iraqi Ministries. The Minister also updated donors on the aid coordination mechanism now in place in Iraq.
6. David Nash, Director of the Program Management Office at the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), provided a briefing on how U.S. assistance will be used for Iraqi reconstruction.
7. Ross Mountain, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General ad interim, discussed how the UN agencies will conduct their activities in the current security context.

8. The United Nations Development Program and the World Bank presented detailed information to donors about the management of the work program envisaged for the Facility.
9. Australia, Canada, the European Commission, Iceland, India, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States [and others?] announced their intention to begin providing funds into the Facility to allow it to start disbursing to Iraqi authorities for reconstruction projects in the near future. [These donors expressed a commitment of over \$X in contributions to the IRFFI in 2004, all in grant aid.] This does not include the planned lending programs by the World Bank and IMF, the substantial bilateral assistance efforts of many donors, or all of the assistance expected for 2005-2007.
10. There was also an organizational meeting of the Donors' Committee for the Facility. The Donors' Committee, made up of donors contributing at least \$10 million to the Facility and two rotating smaller donors, endorses overall priorities for the Facility, provides strategic guidance, and reviews progress in the Facility's operations. XXXX was elected as the Donors' Committee chairman for 2004.