



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Stockholm, 12 September 2008

Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Sweden

Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq
Barham Saleh

Minister for International Development Cooperation

Special Advisor to the Secretary General on
the International Compact with Iraq
Ibrahim Gambari

Involvement of Iraqi civil society in the International Compact with Iraq

Your Excellencies,

In conjunction with the first annual review meeting of the International Compact with Iraq on 29 May in Stockholm, a seminar was arranged on how civil society, and especially Iraqi women, can be more involved in building sustainable security and development in Iraq. Three representatives of Iraqi civil society organisations, Basma al-Khateeb, Hanaa Edwar Busha and Bakhshan Zangana, presented their views on the situation in Iraq and ways to address the problems that exist. The seminar was supported by the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and attended by a large number of Swedish and international journalists.

The participants in the seminar included UN Special Representative of the Secretary General Staffan de Mistura and UNIFEM Gender Advisor Dina Zorba, as well as myself, and together we expressed our strong support for efforts to involve civil society in the building of Iraq's future. Sustainable and fair development can only be achieved when the voices of civil society, including women's organisations, are heard and taken into account.

The International Compact with Iraq clearly spells out the importance of engaging civil society organisations in reform processes and promoting the participation of women in public life. This is in line with the commitments of Security Council Resolution 1325 and the priorities set in the Stockholm Declaration. The Government of Sweden therefore suggests that mechanisms are developed to involve Iraqi civil society, including women's organisations, in the

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implementation of the Shared Vision and the next annual review process of the International Compact with Iraq.

Yours sincerely,



Gunilla Carlsson