



**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **The UN and the Government of Iraq Sign a Statement of Intent on the Common Country Assessment**

**Baghdad, 26 October 2009-** The UN Acting Resident Coordinator for Iraq Dr. Naeema Al-Gasseer and the Iraqi Minister of Planning His Excellency Dr. Ali Baban today signed a joint statement of intent to cooperate on a major development framework for Iraq's future.

The ceremony also marks the finalization of the first ever UN Common Country Assessment (CCA) for Iraq - which aims to identify the key development challenges facing the country as it seeks stability and growth. Focusing on primary themes of Governance, Pro Poor Economy and Ensuring Quality Essential Services such as education, health, shelter and water and sanitation, it examines the impact of nearly three decades of suffering for the Iraqi people and the future possibilities for reform, modernization and socio-economic revival.

“I am very proud of the close cooperation the UN had with the different Iraqi counterparts in particular the Iraqi Government and civil society to make the process of the CCA participatory and inclusive” said Dr. Al-Gasseer. “This statement of intent now signals a move towards a higher level of partnership with a more present UN working to provide greater strategic support and better value to the Iraqi government and people” she added.

The CCA is the first step towards the formulation of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2011-2014 – the most comprehensive global UN tool to support national progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The Iraq UNDAF will aim to focus and accelerate UN support to Iraq's national priorities as set out in the still-draft National Development Plan (NDP).

**For more information please contact**

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