21 August 2016 – WHO is committed to health workforce development in Iraq and the region as a key priority, and to support capacity and human capital to strengthen health systems and realize universal health coverage.

On 18 August 2016 a national meeting gathering all Iraqi medical education leaders, primarily from the Ministry of Higher Education, Medical Colleges, Ministry of Health and World Health Organization was held to launch the finalized national standards of accreditation of Iraqi medical colleges and celebrate this important deliverable in line with the agreed roadmap supported by the WHO and the World Federation of Medical Education.

The meeting was chaired by WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Ala Alwan and co-chaired by Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Professor Fouad Kasim and Head of the Apparatus of Supervision and Scientific Evaluation, Ministry of Health, Dr Nabeel Al Aaraji, together with almost all Iraqi Medical Colleges Deans.

WHO is providing technical support to the National Council for Accreditation of Medical Colleges and ensuring close dynamic collaboration between the Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Health to ensure that the right standards of health professionals required by the Ministry of Health are effectively produced to provide the highest quality of health care services to the Iraqi population.

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