

**Permanent Mission of the Republic  
of Iraq to the United Nations**

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ممثلة جمهورية العراق  
الدائمة لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

New York, 28 April 2006

PRCL-2006-Amb-12

Excellency,

I have the honor to attach herewith, with reference to our note verbale PRCL/2006/87 the voluntary pledges and commitments presented by the Government of Iraq for its candidature to the Human Rights Council at the elections to be held in New York on 9 May 2006.

Excellency, I have further the honor to request that this information be posted on the General Assembly website.

I avail myself, Excellency, of this opportunity to renew the assurances of my highest consideration.



Sincerely,

Hamid Al Bayati  
Ambassador E. & P.  
Permanent Representative

H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson  
President- United Nations General Assembly  
United Nations  
New York

## Aide Memoire

Iraq has decided to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council at the elections to be held at the United Nations General Assembly on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2006 on the following bases:

1. Iraq was forced into international isolation since 1968. The policies of the former dictatorship severed Iraq's international relations with much of the rest of the world, inflicted over a decades of poverty and sanctions on the Iraqi people.
2. The previous dictator regime sponsored terrorism, violated international law, pursued and used weapons of mass destruction and sent millions of Iraqi citizens to their deaths on the battlefields in Iran and Kuwait.
3. Being a new emerging democracy and struggling very hard to build its democratic institutions under the rule of law is keen to establishing a system that ensures human rights and freedoms for all Iraqi people.
4. Being deprived of our basic human rights for more than three decades, will inspire us to re-double our sincere efforts to promote and protect human rights world wide.
5. Iraq attaches great importance to the membership of the Human Rights Council, especially that it has ended the most brutal regime in the modern history which committed crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes.
6. Iraq ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in January 1970.
7. Iraq ratified the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights in January 1971.
8. Iraq ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in January 1971.
9. Iraq ratified the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in August 1986.
10. It had also ratified the Convention on the Rights of Child in June 1994.
11. Iraq is the first Arab country that signed the Arab Charter on Human Rights in 1996.
12. The newly elected Iraqi Council of Representative is in the process of ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
13. Iraqi women succeeded in guaranteeing their political rights through stating in the new permanent constitution their quota of no less that 25% of the seats in the Council of Representatives.
14. As a manifestation of the Government's deep commitment for the promotion and protection of human rights it has established a Ministry for

Human Rights , a Ministry for Women's Affairs , and a Ministry for Civil Society Affairs.

15. The Government of Iraq has established inter- ministerial mechanisms such as the High National Committee for the Advancement of Women as well as the National Committee for Child Care.

16. It is worth mentioning that the Iraqi people are determent to continue their political process . They participated in two free democratic elections and a referendum. The first was on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2005 to elect their provisional National Assembly, then on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2005 the they participated in the referendum on their first Permanent Constitution since 1925. Lastly they participated in the elections of 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2005 according to which they elected their Council of Representative and their Permanent Government.

17. It is to be mentioned that Human Rights and Democracy are the main pillars of the Iraqi Permanent Constitution. It established in Chapter Four Independent Associations one of which is the Supreme Commission for Human Rights. It also stipulated in its article (2/b) that " No law can be passed that contradicts the principles of democracy" . It stated in the same article in subparagraph ( c ) that " No law can be passed that contradicts the rights and basic freedoms outlined in the constitution".

18. The new Iraqi government will exert its utmost efforts to fulfill its constitutional obligations stated in articles (14-44) to guarantee the civil and political, social, economic and cultural rights for Iraqi people including equality before the law with out discrimination on any bases, the right to participate in public matters for all, the duty of the state to guarantee the protection of motherhood, childhood , old age and juveniles and youths, protecting the family, women and children from any kind of violence, providing them with health services and free education.

19. According to the new permanent constitution all Iraqis have the right to freedom of expression, press, publishing, media, communication, and distribution, freedom of assembly and peaceful protest, freedom to establish and belong to political organizations and parties.

20. The Iraqi government is under a constitutional duty to strengthen the role of civil society groups and to support, develop them and preserve their independence in accordance with peaceful means to realize legitimate goals.

21. Iraq has recently succeeded, with the help and support of the Asian group, to get the endorsement and the confidence of the group to preside over the Third Committee of the (61<sup>st</sup> ) Session of the General Assembly and the endorsement of the group for the Membership of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the term (2007-2009). In this regard Iraq will

exert its extreme effort to handle those important responsibilities and be at the disposal of all member states.

22. In pursuit of its commitments to the further promotion and protection of human rights, Iraq will take appropriate measures in respect of relevant human rights instruments and recommendations made by the Human Rights Treaty Bodies after considering the periodic reports submitted by Iraq.

23. Build capacity of the Ministry of Human Rights and Ministry for Women's Affairs and the Human Rights Department at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs as well as the Supreme Commission of Human Rights and other independent bodies established as a part of the national human rights protection system.

24. The Iraqi Council of Representatives put within its first priorities the consideration of ratifying all Optional Protocols of the Human Rights Instruments.

25. The vital role of the United Nations in Iraq has always been welcomed by the Iraqi people, in particular its commitment to humanitarian programs which provided a lifeline to millions of Iraqis throughout the prolonged Iraq crisis under the former regime.

26. The United Nations through its different bodies, especially the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights are providing the Government and the people of Iraq with the technical assistance needed for building capacities in the promotion and protection of human rights.