

## **Words of Ambassador José Pedro Pico, Representative of Argentine Republic**

On behalf of the Argentine Government, I will like to congratulate the Iraqi Government and the UN for the joint organization of this conference.

Let me join my colleges in thanking the Swedish Government for its hospitality and for the coordination of the meeting.

Argentina's presence in Stockholm goes beyond the symbolic. It's a concrete manifestation of our interest regarding the future of Iraq. Today, the presence of almost 100 countries tell us that Iraq concerns us all.

We are ready to consider cooperating on certain specific fields, closely associated to the Compact goals and objectives, to effectively contribute to social and economic development in Iraq. We strongly share, with most members of the international community, the belief that national unity and reconciliation are essential to the process of national reconstruction of the Iraqi political institutions.

A stable, federal and democratic Iraq should ensure equal rights for its people and its communities.

We commend the government of Iraq for the progress on various economic, institutional and security matters.

We are therefore ready to explore a number of projects that will allow us to cooperate, with technical support, in specific areas; strengthen the technical and management capacities of agriculture organizations; water management strategy, gender issues; human rights; human security promotion and institutional reforms for public administration, to quote only some of them.

We do hope and expect however that the crucial security challenges will continue to be confronted by the government, as to realistically enhance the possibility for this technical collaboration to be regularly pursued and enlarged.

A final word: my country is ready to eventually renew conversations with Baghdad to revitalize a proposal in order to reach a new bilateral agreement on economic and technical cooperation.

Thank you.