



## **Recommendations of 1<sup>st</sup> Baghdad International Water Conference**

### **13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2021**

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- 1- The conferees emphasized the importance of this conference for Iraq, the region and the world as a whole, given the importance role of water in protecting the environment and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The conference was also an opportunity to express views and visions on the future of cooperation in accordance with international frameworks in these areas. The attendees recognized the challenges facing water sustainability, including the increasing demand on water resources, extreme climate changes and the health crisis represented by the spread of Corona pandemic. The conferees affirmed their commitment to implementing action plans to achieve the targets of sustainable development on water included in SDG6 and translating them into national goals.
- 2- The conferees stressed the need to strengthen international cooperation and dialogue on international rivers and water courses at regional and global levels. They also stressed the importance of exchanging data and information, encouraging the integrated management of water resources in order to facilitate equitable and reasonable utilization to achieve water requirements of each country, especially downstream countries.
- 3- The attendees praised the new approaches of Turkish side in raising the level of cooperation with Iraq and opening all doors for dialogue, consultation, and the exchange of ideas and experiences. Where the Special Envoy of the President of the Turkish Republic for Water Affairs announced, in his speech at the conference, the Turkish parliament's ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Iraq and Turkey in 2014 in light of the availability of good intentions and political will, with the need to start joint work according to its provisions.



- 4- The conference focused on water and its sustainability through adopting modern scientific methods, appropriate technologies and techniques to rationalize water use in all sectors, especially irrigation which consumes the largest proportion of water.
- 5- The countries participating in the conference called to support Iraq in rehabilitating its infrastructure that has been destroyed due to terrorism actions that Iraq faced and affected the achievement of the SDGs.
- 6- The conferees stressed the need for water agencies, institutions as well as regional and international organizations to adopt cooperation and initiatives projects among riparian countries in order to improve water management and its sustainability.
- 7- The conferees supported what governments and organizations called for adopting water management applications based on science, innovation and new technologies. This would be achieved with the participation of local governments, regional and international organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector. In addition, exchange of experiences in these fields, organizing training programs and joint initiatives that were agreed upon between specialists during the conference period.
- 8- Call for Baghdad International Water Conference to be held annually in the city of Baghdad. A permanent Secretariat will be formed according to this regard, their members are to be selected from Iraq and other countries that are willing to join, International and regional organizations are also welcomed to join. The secretariat will be located in Baghdad and will be formed within the next 3 months.