



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Republic of Iraq

**National Report of the Republic of Iraq
for Habitat III
2016**

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PREFACE

The Habitat Agenda that was prepared in 1996 contained the declaration of the Head of State and Government of their commitment to the implementation of two major goals, namely "adequate shelter for all" and "sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world" as well as their commitment to the implementation of the plan of action that was formulated on the basis of these goals.

The report of the Republic of Iraq for Habitat III addresses progress, new challenges, emerging trends and a prospective vision for sustainable human settlements and urban development in Iraq in accordance with the guidelines contained in the document prepared in response to the Governing Council Draft Resolution on Inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), as the basis for drafting "a new urban agenda" (Appendix 1).

Here, we can not fail to thank the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in Iraq for its technical support to formulate this report, notably, the Local Coordinator; Dr. Rafid Abdul Latif Al Hamawandi.

God grants success...

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1. Urban Demographic issues

Urban demographic issues are addressed through the urban spatial development policy which essentially identifies urban agglomerations or centers for long-term development , it is integrated with the regional development policy which is a planning framework that identifies key trends for the distribution of material and human resources in the region to ensure effective goals of development and creating a situation of relative balance in the allocation of investments among different regions in order to reduce the phenomena of population concentration and spatial disparities in levels of development.

In addition, the spatial aspect of the development of cities and their population would ensure more effective participation by local authorities and communities in the development and follow-up of proper implementation of local development programmes.

1.1. Managing Rapid Urbanization

1.1.1. Progress

The spatial economy model in Iraq shows Baghdad's control as a dominant city at the urban structure level in 2007 as compared to other Iraqi cities. Its dominance was reflected in the results of most development plans. The total population of the second largest city after Baghdad constitutes 1/6 of Baghdad's population and not 1/2 as determined by the well-known Zipf's Rule.

The urban system in the single governorate follows the same perspective, when looking at the size of cities and regions and their hierarchy, there is usually a main city dominating the urban system of the governorate representing a developmental center and pole that attracts all development investments.

Since the city of Baghdad is still in the first position, the urban system for Iraqi cities is likely to relatively improve during the next five years due to the balanced redistribution of allocations and the spatial relocation of development and investment projects. A hierarchy ranking system for Iraq's cities has been put in place for the period 2013-2017 according to COSIT's population projections for Iraq's major cities based on the findings of the 2009 enumeration process, (table no.1). The hierarchical

ranking is improving gradually with the increasing growth of important cities such as Basra and Sulaymaniyah.

Table 1: Calculations of the Urban System Hierarchy in Iraq for the Five-Year Plan 2013-2017

	Actual Urban Population Size in 2013	Assumed Population Size according to the rank-size rule	Actual urban Population size in 2017	Assumed Population Size according to the rank-size rule
Baghdad	6,478,449	6478449	7,207,972	7207972
Basra	2,132,504	3239225	2,372,640	3603986
Ninewa	2,094,123	2159483	2,329,937	2402657
Sulaymaniyah	1,680,818	1619612	1,870,091	1801993
Erbil	1,412,817	1295690	1,571,911	1441594
Dhi Qar	1,216,929	1079742	1,353,964	1201329
Kirkuk	1,053,594	925493	1,172,237	1029710
Najaf	962,444	809806	1,070,823	900996
Babil	904,889	719828	1,006,786	800886
Duhok	872,247	647845	970,468	720797
Al-Anbar	796,825	588950	886,553	655270
Karbala	747,081	539871	831,208	600664
Maysan	740,865	498342	824,292	554459
Wasit	738,728	462746	821,915	514855
Diyala	728,930	431897	811,013	480531
Al- Qadisiya	674,561	404903	750,522	450498
Salah al-Din	655,791	381085	729,638	423998
Al- Muthanna	331,311	359914	368,619	400443

Despite the persistent dominance of the main traditional urban centers in Iraq, the urban system has indicated a positive evolution with the increasing growth of a number of small and medium cities such as Talafar, Fallouja, Al-Ramadi, Karbala and Al-Samawa although the dominance of large cities is still a central characteristic of the urban system in Iraq, figure 1.

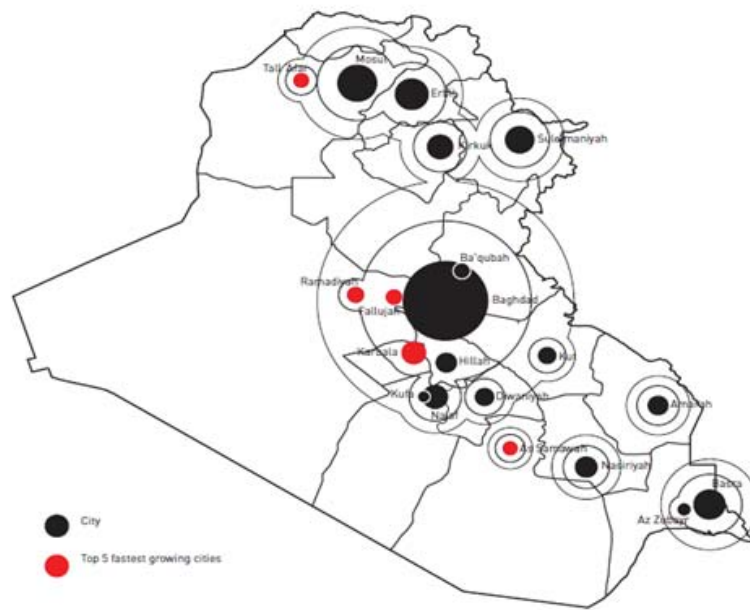


Figure 1: Represents the location of the 20 largest cities in Iraq, the red color represents the fastest growing cities in the country

1.1.2. Challenges

1. Spatial disparities are persistent in Iraq where socio-economic progress is clearly concentrated in a limited number of governorates, or rather in large cities.
2. The growing movement of massive migration to the cities and the consequent impact on the pattern of spatial distribution of population.
3. The centers of population concentration are simultaneously the centers of economic growth; their continued attraction of economic growth factors from other regions is attributed to the positive correlation made between urbanization and socio-economic development.

1.1.3 Future vision

Managing rapid urbanization is achieved through improving the hierarchy of urban system in Iraq

Means of Achievement

1. Finding vacant areas or investment zones in all governorates outside city centers and providing them with their own residential complexes.
2. Exploiting the comparative advantages of medium and small sized cities and orienting investment and infrastructure towards them.
3. Establishing new and satellite towns around large cities especially around those having future expansion constraints.
4. Orienting spatially neutral activities such as universities, colleges and technical institutes towards small cities or cities with low growth.
5. Relocation of storage and industrial activities from city centers, large ones in particular, to outskirts and small and medium cities based on environmental friendly planning grounds.

1.2 Spatial disparities between urban and rural areas

1.2.1 Progress

The living standard in Iraq is closely linked to the level of urbanization. In general, rural areas suffer from higher levels of deprivation, the more the agglomeration grows bigger in size the less deprivation occurs and reaches its lowest levels in large cities. This has constituted a major motive for internal migration in Iraq towards large cities, especially during the fifties and the sixties of the last century.

Many coercive measures have led to degradation of rural areas and villages such as drying of marshes in the nineties of the last century when a large population left their rural villages due to the lack of water on which they depend for their livelihood.

The latest declared indicators of 2012, Figure (2), reveal that rural areas, where deprivation rates reached 58%, suffer far more than cities and urban areas with deprivation rates of 17% according to the standard of living index. While the rest of the basic fields vary indicating a clear superiority of urban areas compared to rural areas.

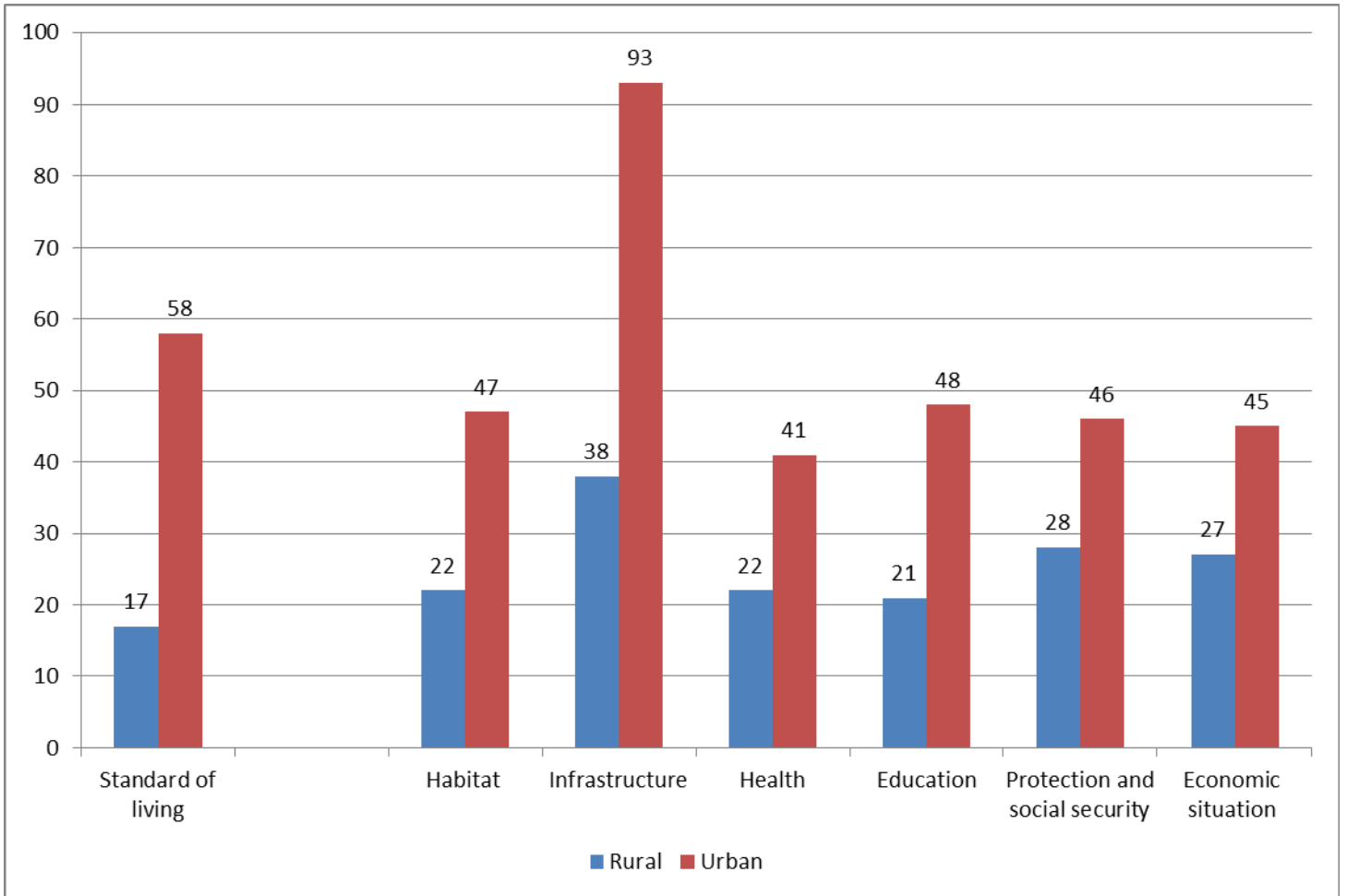


Figure 2: Spatial Disparity between Urban and Rural Areas Based on Deprivation Indicators in the Socio - economic Fields

Such indicators may contribute to rural spatial development studies in setting up master plans for rural development in governorates, as shown in Figure 3, which refers to the rural spatial development plan for Karbala as one practical example, which aims to identify the villages that are nominated to undergo a development process and delivery of services to rural areas and to become a model that could be adopted in other governorates.

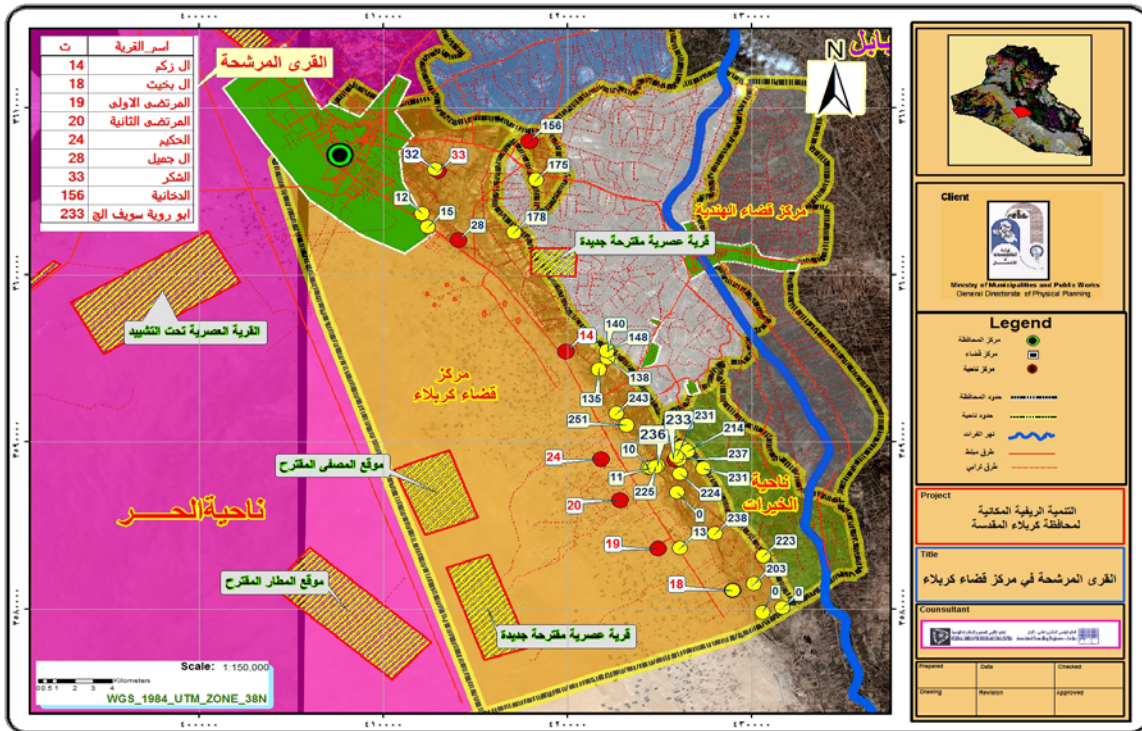


Figure 3 : Rural Development plan and villages nominated to undergo a development process in Karbala

1.2.2 Future Vision

The integration and correlation of rural and urban areas is achieved through reducing the Urban Disparity between Urban and Rural areas

Means of Achievement:

1. Providing public services in rural areas.
2. Investing the natural and human resources in rural areas in a proper manner.
3. Connecting rural areas with urban areas and with each other in order to increase investments in these areas at the economic level and especially in agriculture.
4. Completing the comprehensive rural development studies in governorates.
5. Giving the priority in service provision to the villages that are nominated to undergo a development process or the villages where the population size does not fall below 1000 people.
6. Adopting an urban planning law in Iraq that would guarantee the inclusion of all villages and rural areas in municipal services, according to the functions of relevant administrative units.

1.3 Addressing urban Youth needs

1.3.1 Progress

The United Nations identified youth as individuals aged between 15 and 25 years of age but in Iraq this age group expanded to include individuals up to 29 years of age to constitute the major population group, as according to the projections based on the findings of 2009 enumeration process ,total youth population was almost (9.3) million, approximately (28%) Iraqis aged 15-29 years.

In order to provide a comprehensive briefing of the youth condition in Iraq, we will tackle the following dimensions:

Table 2: Youth Situation in Iraq

Sector	Indicator			%	
Education	Enrollment rates	Secondary school in 2011		%21	
		Higher education in 2011		%14	
	Enrollment rates	Male in 2011		%44.4	
		Female in 2011		%33.5	
	Illiteracy rate	Male in 2011		%11.7	
		Female in 2011		%21.2	
Economic domain	Economic activity rate	2008		%43.2	
		2011		%38.4	
		Urban areas 2011		%36	
		Rural areas 2011		%43	
	Male 2011	Self-employed	%17.5	%63.4	
		Working in the public sector	%27		
		Working in the private sector	%71.5		
	Female 2011	Self-employed	%5.4	%12	
		Working in the public sector	%41		
		Working in the private sector	%58.2		
			Percentage of workers in unprotected labor		%68
			Percentage of workers in protected labor		%32
Unemployment 2011	The overall unemployment rate in Iraq			%11.1	
	Youth unemployment rate	Male	%15.5	%18.2	
		Female	%33.3		
	percentage of unemployed certificate holders graduated from secondary schools			%16.6	
	Percentage of unemployed holders of higher degrees			%24.4	

1.3.2 Challenges

1. High rates of population growth pose a challenge to development in Iraq. The country's population in 2007 was 10 times greater than it was in 1927. The total population of Iraq was almost 32 million according to the enumeration of buildings, households and establishments issued in July 2011.
2. Increase in the percentage of youth, which now forms 28% of the population. This rate is expected to continue rising during the next two decades and will challenge the economy to provide suitable job opportunities.
3. Weakness of the employment policy and a weak role played by the private sector.
4. Absence of a comprehensive national policy targeting the youth. This has made services provided to the youth unclear, empty and ineffective.
5. The low skills acquired by the youth in their daily lives (inherited professions, technical skills...). This reflects on the participation of the youth.

1.3.3 Future Vision

Youth that is aware; has faith in citizenship and is an essential partner in achieving sustainable development.

Goals and Means of Achievement:

1. Intensified training, qualification and vocational rehabilitation for youth to enhance their chances of employment, to give priority to young people within the National Employment Policy as the most vulnerable to unemployment and promote youth participation and initiatives related to work.
2. Increased investment in education to ensure the rapid implementation of the education strategy and to ensure consistency with the labor market.
3. Expand opportunities for girls to enable them to continue their secondary and higher education, and increase rates of participation in economic activities in the public and private sectors.
4. Accelerate the adoption and implementation of the National Youth Strategy to empower the youth with wider opportunities to participate and benefit from the institutions and services concerned with youth with special attention to youth in rural, remote and poor areas.
5. Reinforce awareness programs among the youth to promote a culture of peace, dialogue and interaction with each other and promote the values of citizenship and productive work among young people.
6. Guarantee the right of young people and adolescents to access information about the dimensions of reproductive health and sexually transmitted diseases as the group most vulnerable to these risks.
7. Support for youth institutions and organizations and enabling them to participate in the formulation and implementation of policies affecting them including population policies.
8. The establishment of networks of civil society youth organizations that support population issues and cooperate with government agencies in formulation and implementation of population programmes and projects .

1.4 Addressing the needs of vulnerable groups

1.4.1 Progress

With fertility rates on the decline and life expectancy rates on the rise, Iraq's population is headed towards senescence. The number of elderly citizens above 65 years of age exceeded 1.016 million in 2010 and is expected to rise to 3.736 million in 2040, with an increase rate of 6.6% that rises to 8.9% in 2050.

- The number of elderly care homes in Iraq was 10 in 2012, eight of which were traditional elderly care homes and two were care homes for the completely disabled. These are divided between Baghdad and seven governorates.
- The number of beneficiaries of elderly care homes was 391 in 2012 while the number of those benefiting from care homes for the severely disabled elderly was 241, table 3.

Table (3): Development Indicators for Vulnerable Groups 2009-2012

	Current Situation					
	Indicator	2009	2010	2011	2012	
1	Orphans	Number of State Orphanages	19	19	23	23
2		Orphan/social worker	6.8	5.9	6.2	10.3
3		Orphans/ Teacher	7	5.1	5.5	4.9
4	Elderly and Severely Handicapped	Number of elderly care Homes for the Elderly and Severely Handicapped	8	9	10	10
5		Elderly /social worker	26.8	29.3	31.8	22.8
6		Elderly Beneficiaries and Severely Disabled/ Service Officer	4.18	4.5	4.7	4.8
7	People with special needs	Institutes for People with special needs	51	51	51	51
8		People with special needs / Social worker	21.7	22.9	23.2	23.2
9		People with special needs People/ teacher	5.2	6.6	5.6	6.6
10	Protected workshops	Paid Beneficiaries/ Protected Workshop and Cooperative Association	35	34.9	28.1	29.7
11	Kindergartens	Number of Kindergartens	42	43	41	42
12		Child/ Kindergarten	52.7	58.2	58.8	58.3
13		Child/ nursemaid	15.2	16.7	12.5	12.7
14	Juveniles	Number of Schools	9	9	9	8

		and Observation Centers for Juvenile Convicts, Arrested and Homeless Juveniles				
16		Social worker for juveniles	56	56	55	52
17	Number of Beneficiaries from the 84 billion Iraqi Dinar allocation Under the poverty reduction strategy if the financial allocation was received/ Ministry of Planning		There is no funding for lending			10000
18	Parliamentary Allocation for the Ministry of Labor, Beneficiaries from the 150 billion Iraqi Dinar of the Lending Fund According to Law Number 10 dated 2012 if the amount was Received total amount 32000 Iraqi Dinar		73501 Unemployed Benefited from Lending Funded by the Ministry of Finance	Suspended		Fund under organization
19	Social Protection Network	Number of People Covered by the Social Protection Network	734572	317468	395126	The Cause of Exclusion of Network Encroachments 363.316
20		Social worker, Network	66	61	58	54

1.4.2 Future Vision

The elderly to live a safe life through reintegration in society and the provision of health care according to their needs

Goals and Means of Achievement:

1. Massive Increase in the percentage covered by social protection systems.
2. Expansion of institutions involved in the delivery of health and social services for the elderly and raising the efficiency of its functioning ,and expanding support for families caring for their elderly.
3. Adoption of laws, legislation and procedures to support participation of the elderly in economic, social and cultural activities and activate communication between the generations.

Wide attention to the rights of persons with disabilities and special needs , and support equal opportunities in health communication, mobility, housing, education, work and leisure, and to promote their participation in the economic, social and political life through:

1. Providing a database on people with disabilities and special needs as regards size, characteristics and needs.
2. Expanding services provided to people with disabilities and special needs

1.5 Integrating Gender in issues related to urban development

1.5.1 Progress

In order to assess the situation of women, an analysis of the current situation will be carried out on the basis of their role and status in the following areas:

Table 4: women situation in Iraq

Sector	Indicator			%
Education	Illiteracy rate in 2011	Age	12 – 19 year	%16
			20 – 39 year	%20
			50 ⁺ years	%67
		Environment	Rural	%36.5
	Urban		%16	
	Academic achievement 2011	Cannot read or write		%22
		Only primary school education		%60
		Have completed secondary school or higher		%18
The gender gap in primary school enrollment	Male 2011		%96	
	Female 2011		%88	
Health	The incidence of breast cancer in 2011			%35
Social domain	Female heads of households	2006		%11.5
		2011		%7.7
	Percentage of women who got married before the age of 18	2006		%22.6
		2011		%24.2
	Violence against women in 2011	Girls subjected to domestic violence		%46
		Women subjected to violence under marriage		%36
Economic domain	Women's participation in economic activity	2003		%14.2
		2011	Urban	%13
			Rural	%14

		women aged between 15 and 54 involved in paid employment in 2011	%11
Political domain	Representation in Parliament	2007	%27.3
		2011	%25

1.5.2 Challenges

Despite the achievements accomplished by Iraqi women in all aspects of life, they are still facing major challenges, including:

1. Cultural and social values impose restrictions on women's participation, work and movement, under a patriarchal masculine culture dominated by men and where women are subordinates.
2. The level of women's education and training opportunities is low, They have limited chances to participate in politics .
3. Women are not participating effectively and actively in most of the legislative, judicial and executive powers.
4. Women's participation in economic activities is weak, especially in rural areas where many women work without getting paid which affects the developmental role played by women and their social status.

1.5.3 Future Vision

Empowering Iraqi women and widening their choices

Goals and Means of Achievement:

1. Policies aimed at protecting the rights of women and girls which incorporate equal employment rights and ensuring their protection from harmful traditional practices and the various manifestations of violence.
2. Raising knowledge and awareness aiming to correct the attitudes of society towards women and their rights.
3. The adoption of legislation to promote women's status and roles to access justice and equity.
4. Incorporating concepts that promote respect for the values of equality and rights for both sexes in education curriculum.
5. Enable Women's active participation in economic activity and increased role in the labor market and the allocation of special programmes for rural women and female heads of households.
6. Promote the participation of women in sustainable development through their participation in policy formulation and decision-making.
7. Adopt effective measures to address violence against women such as amendment of laws and other measures related to the conduct and policies that violate human rights.

Theme 1 Table of Summary

Main Theme	Urban demographic issues	Progress			Challenges		Future Vision	
		Poor	Medium	High	Diagnosed	Undiagnosed	Proposed	Non-existent
Issues	Managing Rapid Urbanization							
	Spatial disparities between Rural and Urban areas							
	Addressing Youth needs							
	Addressing the needs of vulnerable groups							
	Integrating Gender in issues related to urban development							

Assessment of the situation of Iraq for the objectives and the Millennium Development goals

the objectives and the Millennium Development goals	Assess the situation	notes
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education	On the track: Net primary education enrollment	Achieving high rates of enrollment in primary education Raise enrollment rates in primary education among most provinces
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	Away from the track: Low index of women' share in jobs out side agricultural sector	Achieve a good ratio of the proportion of parliamentary seats held by women Achieve a high rate of enrollment of girls compared to boys in primary education
Goal 4: Reduce infant mortality rate	Away from the track	Decline but slow
Goal 5: Improve the health of mothers	Away from the track	Decline but slow
Goal 6: The fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	On the track: Control transition diseases	Low rate of injury and death due to malaria and tuberculosis

2. Land and Planning processes

Land management in an economically productive and environmentally sustainable manner is considered a high priority in Iraq which requires vision, goals and prioritized activities within the land sector. The land is a key asset for the country, and a non-replenishable valuable asset that need to be sustainably exploited for the economic and social welfare now and for future generations.

2.6 Ensuring sustainable urban planning and design

2.6.1 Progress

1. All cities and urban centers in Iraq have master plans and detailed plans that identify urban land uses, service areas , as well as growth and future expansion trends. There are almost (256) urban and municipal units in Iraq.
2. Most of these plans have already become outdated upon the regime change in 2003 and have not been updated due to the circumstances in Iraq at the time (the war and blockade).
3. After 2003, a detailed plan for the modernization and expansion of these master plans for a target of (20) years from the date of preparation was developed, taking into account modern standards of services, improvement of the environment, sustainable development, areas of expansion and implementation phases . Efforts were initiated to update the master plans of (131) towns that constitute 51% of the cities of Iraq, some of which were completed, others are in advanced stages.
4. The agency assigned with the development of these plans is the Directorate General of Physical Planning in the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works whose jurisdiction covers all towns (except for Baghdad and the cities of Kurdistan) , they have been implemented through contracts with specialized international companies in partnership with Iraqi consulting offices to ensure the transfer of expertise and enable to perform such a large number in a short time , and follow-up is undertaken by the Directorate and its branches in the governorates amounting to (15) planning Directorates in each provincial center.

5. The implementing agencies of these master plans are the relevant municipalities, where there is a municipality in each town assigned with municipal servicing tasks and implementation of master plans.
6. The task of development of plans for the capital city Baghdad and follow-up of implementation is assigned to the Design Department within the Mayoralty of Baghdad through study and review of plans by a Committee of architects and experts qualified in urban planning to ensure conformity with acceptable standards.
7. The task of plan development and implementation in Kurdistan region is assigned to physical planning directorates in the region and the municipalities.
8. In addition to the development of master plans, the Directorate is involved in the development of governorates structural plans (now in progress in (13) governorates out of (15)), as well as urban renewal and rural development projects and planning studies.

2.6.2 Challenges

1. The phenomenon of encroachment on the master plans that has spread in all cities in the past period .
2. The high concentration of commercial and Government activities within the traditional central business district .
3. Deterioration of existing infrastructure, aging networks and non-comprehensive treatments for resolving current problems.
4. Scattered industrial activities, some are overlapping with residential or commercial uses, which are adversely affecting the quality of life and public safety (some of these activities are polluting).
5. Spread of slum housing that emerged after 2003.
6. The difficulty of preserving the cultural heritage and local identity due to the decline in the community culture of conservation in areas related to archaeological sites and their relationship with the urban fabric as regards monuments, buildings, public art (monuments and statues, natural heritage (such as orchards).
7. The obsolete legislative framework governing the planning and implementation process.

2.6.3 Future Vision

Activating Urban Management and Urban Planning

Goals and Means of Achievement:

1. Setting a national strategy for urban development and respecting its indicators when preparing and implementing spatial development programs.
2. Drafting and adopting a national law for urban planning that states the structure of the institutions that are in charge of urban planning at the Federal level and in governorates and the planning functions of each, as well as the mechanisms for drafting and adopting plans and monitoring their implementation and the procedures to be taken in case of violation of the master plans
3. Activating the compliance with the regulations and mechanisms of urban planning and the master plans of human settlements and non- violation of these plans.
4. Developing mechanisms to control the implementation and non-violation of master plans.

2.7 Improving urban land management, including addressing urban sprawl

2.7.1 Progress

Initiation of the Urban Land Management Reform Project implemented by the Advisory Committee (PMAC) in association with the United Nations human settlements programme (UN-HABITAT) that would produce a roadmap for urban land management in Iraq, starting with a detailed database of urban land comprising the nature of their current land uses, tenure status, value and mechanisms of registration, transfer of ownership or right of disposal and so on.

2.7.2 Challenges

1. All Iraqi cities, including Baghdad and provincial centers adopt a horizontal housing pattern caused by (the nature of the conservative societal fabric and land subdivision and allocation laws), this resulted in:

- Low residential densities which mean low return on investment that is not commensurate with the value and limited stock of urban serviced land.
 - More land is required to meet the current and future needs causing significant expansion on the land surrounding the city (which is mostly agricultural land).
2. Laws and regulations of land allocation do not take into account the specificity and circumstances of each city (push –pull factors).
 3. Land allocation mechanisms are oriented towards the individual level and to the various segments in accordance with the above controls; the orientation towards the allocation of land for the construction of integrated residential complexes is still very limited in the proportion of available housing.
 4. The current administration and allocation systems do not provide any mechanism for linking the allocation of land with the implementation of services and infrastructure.
 5. The complex security situation and work environment in Iraq, do not allow the entry of investors to build high-density mixed–use housing complexes or the implementation of transport and infrastructure projects.

2.7.3 Future Vision

Devise a Policy for land management and administration, and implementation of related decisions and actions to contribute to the achievement of the national goals of economic growth, poverty reduction, food security, environmental sustainability, national defense and socio-economic development within the context of market economy

Goals and Means of Achievement:

1. Set up and develop a policy, institutional and regulatory framework for management and disposal of state land (urban and rural) for investment, housing and public uses including the process of privatization of surplus state land in line with market principles
2. Create and strengthen institutions and a governance system for land management that is transparent and accountable and define institutional roles and responsibilities at different levels.
3. Propose the creation of public or private agencies to manage and administer land.
4. Establish mechanisms for coordination and consultation between the central and local levels of the government on issues related to state owned lands, in a manner that enhances the principles of decentralization.
5. Utilize the principles of Public – Private Partnerships (PPPs) in land management and administration.
6. Develop approaches for urban and rural land management, taking into account the need for land for housing and economic development.
7. Develop an institutional and regulatory framework for conversion of peripheral land surrounding human settlements to urban uses, taking into account the protection of productive agricultural land and associated water rights.
8. Develop the regulatory framework for land use and spatial plans in priority areas.
9. Review and develop the legal and accounting framework for land taxation, valuation and land related public finance.
10. Facilitate access to land and housing for groups such as people affected by displacement through a range of land tenure options.
11. Develop policies to address informal uses of land for economic purposes and housing in a manner that maintains the balance between public and private benefits.

2.8 Enhancing Urban Food Production

2.8.1 Progress

1. Preserve the orchards, natural forests and some dispersed farmland within cities to be designated as orchards, agricultural or open areas within urban land uses, and not allowed to be used for urban and development purposes as per adopted controls, to ensure their preservation and contribution in food production to serve the city, and this will vary in terms of size and contribution depending on the importance and situation of cities and the availability of water resources.
2. Allow the use of agricultural land located within urban expansions that do not fall within the phase being implemented to be exploited for agricultural and productivity purposes.
3. Municipalities were given the power by laws to control the allowed activities within hinterlands and municipal borders for a distance (3 km to 10 km) according to the class of municipality, as per that it is possible to maintain the agricultural nature of the area around the city and prevent the establishment of harmful and polluting industries and activities or constructions therein.
4. Even within green and open areas designated by master plans such as green stripes/riverbanks, it is allowed to establish some agricultural activities that do not affect its function as open and green areas such as plant nurseries that serve the agricultural process.
5. Permitting establishment of wholesale markets for fruit and vegetable in the outskirts of the city and designate them within the land uses of the master plan to serve the food production and distribution processes in cities.

2.8.2 Challenges

1. Phenomenon of encroachment on orchards and agricultural land uses within cities caused by the weakness of municipal authorities and the existence of a clear difference in the financial benefits derived from the exploitation of these areas for development and productivity purposes instead of agricultural purposes.

2. There are some gaps in the legislation in force that would lead to fragmentation of the agricultural land and orchards and converting to residential and urban lands.
3. The difficulty of providing water share to the dispersed agricultural areas in cities, especially by relying on the old irrigation systems (surface irrigation) instead of (drip irrigation).

2.8.3 Future Vision

To promote food production in cities through a set of goals

1. Providing better access to water, and modern irrigation techniques that minimize water consumption. Efficiency gains are often possible through the selection of appropriate crops, sound irrigation scheduling and effective irrigation methods, and the use of alternative sources of water for irrigation purposes. Improving the practice of irrigation can lead to:
 - Reduce the cost of water and pumping
 - Reduce the cost of fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals.
 - Maintaining the highest quality of soil.
 - Increased crop yields _ 100%
2. Enhanced storage and transportation infrastructure is a major immediate action to increase agricultural food products.
3. Provide new modern equipment for the processed food and agricultural products to allow for the transition from the level of the traditional subsistence farming to commercial farming producing high-value and processed products for the agro industries in addition to addressing shortages in veterinary clinics.
4. Startup information for emerging entrepreneurs in terms of facilities and incentives for small business enterprises on a regular basis for those interested, this information must include advisory services to help farmers understand the loan application procedures as well as training in market research and business planning. Farmers who are interested in expanding their agricultural activities and diversification in the food processing sector also lack to the basic accounting practices needed for follow-up of shortage or overproduction of food, payment of wages, employment, etc.

2.9 Addressing urban mobility challenges

2.9.1 Challenges

The transportation network of roads or railways in Iraq extends longitudinally, parallel to the courses of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers,

which has traditionally led to the concentration of human settlements and activities along these two corridors. On the other hand, other Iraqi regions faced a lack of main transportation hubs, thus, these traditional corridors suffered from high traffic volumes and increased pressure on the main roads in the country. Consequently, there was a need to increase expenditure on road maintenance and to address the soaring rate of traffic accidents. Moreover, this situation was reflected in the high cost of delays in trips and had negative repercussions on other economic sectors that are affected by transportation.

The longitudinal extension of the Iraqi transportation network weakens the link and connectivity between industry and agriculture and overlaps with other economic sectors. Therefore, there is a need to establish a network of radial roads that would connect small and medium cities and create new hubs for development in Iraq.

2.9.2 Future Vision

Integrated Transportation Systems

Means of Achievement

1. Complete the construction of Expressways and Arterial Roads between governorates such as Expressway No. 2 and Ring Roads around the major cities, including Baghdad.
2. Complete the connection between Expressway No .1 and the urban centers located nearby and restoring this road.
3. Transverse roads between governorates and medium and small cities.
4. Strengthening the rural road network based on the priorities of the integrated agricultural and rural development.
5. Strengthening the road network that connects border outlets with cities located in their axes that are not currently linked to them.
6. Building double rail tracks in the areas that are not served by railroads according to modern specifications in the corridors of Baghdad – Kut- Nassiriyah – Basra, and Baghdad –Kut – Amara - Basra.
7. Improving the current railway lines and transforming them to double lines with a speed limit of 250 km/hour.
8. Implementation of Baghdad-Kirkuk railway line that bifurcates to Erbil and Al-Sulaymaniyah.
9. Implementation of the Loop Rail Line around Baghdad.
10. Promoting public transportation in major cities in particular, in order to reduce traffic congestions.
11. Implementation of urban rail transit network (metro and monorail).
12. Building airports in several areas in Iraq based on the findings of technical and economic feasibility studies.

2.10 Improving technical capacities for planning and management of cities

2.10.1 Progress

1. Strengthening the scientific institutions (universities and colleges) that graduate specialized staff in the fields of urban and regional planning, architecture and housing, added in this context is the establishment of an urban planning college that grants a Bachelor degree.
2. Strengthen the relationship and coordination between academic institutions involved in planning and directorates and departments undertaking the implementation process, which is currently taking place between the Directorate General of Physical Planning and Institute of urban and Regional Planning within the following frameworks:
 - Periodic seminars and conferences
 - Training of postgraduate students of the Institute of Planning in the Directorate of Physical Planning and the appointment of graduates
 - the assignment of some of the planning projects to the consultant office of the Institute of Urban Planning
3. Development and capacity-building of planning departments staff through involving them in training courses inside and outside the country through:
 - Adding a clause pertaining to training of staff to contracts with international companies for planning projects.
 - Taking advantage of the courses set up by donors, international organizations and organizations of the United Nations in capacity development.
4. Obliging international firms assigned with planning projects to establish partnership with Iraqi consulting offices to ensure providing expertise, mutual benefit and improve the capacity of those offices.

2.10.2 Future Vision

Improve the technical capacities required for urban planning and management

Means of Achievement

1. Strengthen professional capacity in land management, land-use planning, spatial planning and land information systems ... through the development of programmes and cooperation with international universities.
2. Development of outreach mechanisms to raise awareness about the development of land policies and land management.
3. Develop a risk and expectations management strategy.
4. Enhance understanding of the rule of law with respect to the land.

Theme 2 Table of Summary

Main Theme	Land and Planning Processes	Progress			Challenges		Future vision	
		Poor	Medium	High	Diagnosed	Undiagnosed	Proposed	Non existent
Issues	Ensuring sustainable urban planning and design							
	Improving urban land management, including addressing urban sprawl							
	Enhancing Urban Food Production							
	Addressing urban mobility challenges							
	Improving technical capacities for planning and management of cities							

3 . Environment and Urbanization

The environment was not regarded as a priority by the State during the past three decades, the deterioration and destruction that struck environmental infrastructure during decades of war and economic blockades , the absence of security and stability, in addition to the high population growth rate of 3% per year and the country's high levels of urbanization, desertification , deterioration in the quality of agricultural land , salinization and over-watering, especially in the Central and southern regions, discharge of drainage water, wastewater, and untreated effluents from hospitals and factories , lack of treatment units for dust and gases from industrial facilities , primitive methods of solid waste disposal and the poor community awareness of the importance of the environment and its conservation among other things all of which contributed to the deterioration of the Iraqi environment in its three elements : water, air and soil.

3.11 Addressing Climate Change

3.11.1 Progress

Iraq is no different from the rest of the world in being affected by the phenomenon of climate change including global warming , declining precipitation, rising annual rates of temperature and humidity, increasing rates of evaporation, dust , sandstorms and thunderstorms. Iraq sought to monitor changes in these rates through the monitoring stations for natural conditions which amounted to 10 stations since 2011, four in Baghdad, Basra, Mosul, and Rutbah, and the remaining six are spread across the cities of Kurdistan.

3.12 Disaster Risk Reduction

3.12.1 Progress

Substantial progress in the monitoring and control of environmental situation was achieved and enhanced with regular and continuous readings of natural phenomena, however it did not rise to the level of ambition due to the quantitative shortage and limited geographical spread of monitoring stations which Iraq seeks to increase and expand their geographical distribution during the years 2013-2017, making them an early warning system against natural phenomena and measurement

of pollutants in order to respond to the negative impacts that may extend to the natural and man-made environment and human beings.

3.13 Reducing traffic congestion

3.13.1 Progress

The reduction of traffic congestion deals with two aspects, the first is Roads and Bridges Activity and the second is Public Transport.

Roads and Bridges Activity

According to international standards, for each 100 inhabitants per km² of population density, 1 km/km² of roads are required. Road density in Iraq is around 0.19 km/km², that is, the road network should be around 240,000 km, given that the population density in Iraq according to 2011 estimates is 79.5 inhabitants per km². If we exclude the unpopulated desert areas, the need for new roads is about 20,000 km, according to the standard mentioned.

The road network in Iraq was exposed to great deterioration. Most of its parts were destroyed and damaged as a result of military operations, acts of sabotage and little and scarce emergency and periodic maintenance work. This led to reducing the level of road network efficiency to very low levels and a decrease in absorptive capacity. Aside from this, most of the traffic signs and the directional and warning signs on the international roads and expressways were damaged or lost; hence repairing the current road network is one of the plan priorities in the area of road and bridge activity.

Public Transport Activity

State passenger transportation activity declined in 2003 and the period that followed and was very limited, both on the level of inter-city and intra-city transportation. It was no longer in the organized form that was previously in place.

After 2008, state passenger transportation gradually began to recover its organized activity by operating intra –city bus services and within Baghdad and achieved the goal of providing 300 buses to transport passengers during 2010 and 2011, amounting to 134% of the planned, where 709 buses were imported to support external transport and 86 buses to support international transport in 2010 and 246 buses during

2011, the number of buses belonging to the State Company for Travelers and Delegates Transportation reached 945 operating buses by September 2012. There are currently 30 operating lines within Baghdad, 3 lines for transporting students (and it is hoped to increase this number within the coming period to 5 or 6 lines), 4 lines between governorates and 14 lines between Baghdad and the governorates. The rate of growth in the number of passengers in 2011 increased by 3.4% compared to 2010.

With the improvement in the security situation, demand for intra and inter-city passenger transportation has started to rise. Owing to the limited railway activity at the present time, bus transportation is relied on as the currently available solution. The prices charged by the State Company for Travelers and Delegates Transportation are still much lower than private sector prices. The buses owned by the company are recent models, air-conditioned and safe, and they offer some services during the trip. Therefore, citizens have started to prefer them over private sector buses. The private sector was contracted for the purposes of cooperation in the joint operation of bus passenger transport within the city of Baghdad with regular trips and under follow-up and supervision of the company.

3.13.2 Challenges

1. The largest proportion of freight transported on the road network caused great strain on the network which has contributed to its destruction.
2. lack of control on vehicular weights and axial loads of freight trucks led to the destruction of the road network.
3. Lack of transverse roads between governorates and cities and the lack of ring roads around cities.
4. Poor attention to quality and quality control for road projects..
5. The prevalence of at-grade intersections between railway and road.
6. Limited financial allocations for the activity.
7. Continued instability in the security situation in some cities and governorates, continued security roadblocks and checkpoints on main and subsidiary streets.
8. The public transportation fleet is limited for inter-city and intra –city transportation.

9. The bloated administrative and operational staff of public transportation activity and the resulting low level of performance.
10. An unregulated private sector that uses substandard vehicles polluting the urban environment.

3.13.3 Future Vision

A road network with a balanced hierarchy integrated with other transport systems to ensure less travel time and cost, safer trips and less environmentally negative impact.

Goals and Means of Achievement:

1. Improve the condition of the current road network through the rehabilitation of existing roads, reconstruction of bridges, and installation of indication signs, guide signs, warning signs and external roads furniture.
2. Increase the capacity of the existing network and raise the degree of safety and security for its users and protection against damage through the completion of the remaining parts of the highways that were previously built, and finish linking these roads to the urban centers that have not yet been linked, continue to eliminate at-grade intersections between railways and road network , protect the road network from excessive loads by building vehicle weigh stations to save the road network from the impact of vehicle weights and axial loads that exceed the allowable limits, and pass new legislation or amend existing legislation to impose fees at certain rates for the use of main and arterial roads and bridges, in order to provide adequate amounts for periodic and sustainable maintenance of roads and bridges.
3. The domestic private sector and foreign investment can play a role in implementing infrastructure and expressway hubs provided that free roads and bridges are provided for the routes of these same hubs.

To provide intra-city and inter-city public transportation that is fast, sustainable, environmentally friendly and that fulfills the aspirations of the targeted groups.

Goals and Means of Achievement:

1. Modernize the intra-city and inter-city passenger transportation fleet with new models of comfortable buses that meet environmental standards and fulfill the aspirations of the targeted groups.
2. Work according to the principle of special fares for students, youth, people with special needs and those covered by social care programs.
3. Encourage the private sector to found private and joint-stock companies dedicated to inter-city and intra-city transportation on a competitive basis with the public sector.
4. Support the private sector and reorganize it in the field of passenger transportation and providing pivotal structures to conduct its activity, particularly passenger transportation garages with high specifications.
5. Continue to support the private sector in providing comfortable means of transportation by subsidizing the replacement of old vehicles with new ones.

3.14 Air Pollution

3.14.1 Progress

The tangible progress Iraq has made in limiting air pollution rates and improving air quality is a result of the implementation of many programs and projects during 2010 and 2011. These resulted in the creation of programs for monitoring air quality through fixed stations to measure pollutants in just three governorates (Baghdad, Basra, and Ninewa) and an increase in the number of specialized stations for air quality inspections and decisions, totaling 17 integrated stations. At the end of 2012, six other stations will be added to cover the governorates of Najaf, Karbala, and Maysan with two stations for each governorate, aside from the approval of national regulations such as ambient air quality and emissions controls for different activities, not to mention updating and activating regulations and guidelines for protecting and improving the environment.

Policies orienting production activities such as industry, electricity, oil (energy), transportation and communications toward limiting air pollutants by relying on air treatment systems and using environmentally cleaner technologies are among the factors boosting the improvement of air quality. This is especially so as we know that those activities are among the sources that most contribute to air pollution and the increase of concentrations of toxic gasses in the atmosphere, especially concentrations of heavy metals such as lead and suspended particles.

In the Industrial Field: Dust precipitators were renovated and rebuilt at 14 cement plants in 2011, work will continue during the plan period (2013-2017) in strengthening the tendency to decrease furnace dust emissions rates and concentrations and expanding production of replacement alternatives for non-renewable energy in the industrial fields. The number of such projects that were implemented exceeded 15 industrial projects at the end of 2011, making it a positive factor in air quality improvement during the coming years.

In the Electricity Field: There is a current and prospective trend of using environmentally friendly technology by replacing gas power plants at a greater rate than other types of plants and exploiting alternative and renewable energy sources. Around 6000 megawatts from 12 plants were

converted to work on natural gas. Solar heaters will be distributed to houses, which will save about 150 megawatts commencing in 2013. A programmed time table has been adopted for converting single cycle plants to combined cycle, and this will assist with the utilization of the hot air produced by gas power plants to operate the steam power plants without using liquid fuel.

In the Oil and Gas Field: Iraq seeks to limit the process of burning associated gas and to utilize it completely. Iraq also seeks to utilize cleaner fuels that cause less pollution by approving the use of liquid gas (LPG) as a fuel for vehicles along with gasoline and diesel in order to utilize the liquid gas surplus. This will commence in 2014 and the years following supported by the following procedures:

- Construction of typical stations along with all auxiliary facilities in Baghdad, to be equipped with gas then spread out across the rest of the governorates.
- Adding a system operating on liquid gas alongside the operating stations.
- Providing gas for residential complexes, taking into consideration all the environmental constraints and safety and security requirements.

In the field of Transportation: Iraq's adoption of open trade policies free of import controls brought about an increase in the number of cars imported by 127% compared to the period before 2003, replacing 80% of old cars. This had a dual impact on the environment, the first is positive, perceived in air quality improvement, and the other is negative, resulting from the absence of environmentally-related import controls, in particular on the type of gasoline imported, the rates of which grew to cover the increase in local demand. This was one of the causes for the increased percentages of air pollutants. The increase in the number of cars after 2003 gave birth to traffic congestion, a phenomenon whose adverse impacts were exacerbated by the actual increase in traffic points and fixed and mobile check-points, which led to increasing pollution concentrations in the air during times of traffic congestion, including nitrogen oxide and carbon monoxide. Thus, Iraq seeks during the plan years to adopt a collection of procedures to limit the negative impacts resulting from the application of open trade policies free of any environmental controls especially as relates to the importation of cars, in line with the international conventions signed by Iraq, especially with

regard to the importation of environmentally-friendly cars and the utilization of clean fuels in order to protect and improve air quality and promote sustainable human development.

3.14.2 Challenges

1. Despite the achievements made in the field of environmental sustainability for development during the past few years, the environment is still one of the focuses for sustainable development that suffers from great deterioration in all of its components and has not been given advanced priority in developmental decisions.
2. The wide financial gap between the sizes of the allocations earmarked for the environment in the Federal budget and the requirements of environmental protection and improvement.
3. Failure of capacity building programs in the environmental field to keep pace with the requirements of environmental protection and improvement, particularly in the governorates.
4. Weak enforcement of environmental legislation, especially aspects related to penalties and accountability of violators of environmental stipulations, and the lack of enforcement of the “polluter pays” principle.
5. Limited use of environmentally-friendly technology in most fields of life, especially in industrial and energy related activities that most pollute the environment, and continued reliance on traditional systems having a negative impact on the environment.
6. Poor response to international environmental standards and in particular after the accession of Iraq to 11 international environmental conventions which require securing the necessities for meeting the requirements ensuing from being a signatory to these conventions.
7. The absence of a comprehensive national strategy for sustainable development led to the reliance on improvisation and selectivity when implementing environmental programs and projects.
8. The private sector is still absent as a key partner in laying the foundations for sustainable development in Iraq.

3.14.3 Future Vision

Protecting and improving air quality

Goals and Means of Achievement

1. Adoption of implementation programs specialized according to the source of air pollution, including natural sources, fixed industrial sources, mobile industrial sources, and noise.
2. Increase fixed measurement, inspection, and observation stations to cover all of Iraq's governorates.
 1. Establish an environmental database and manage it with regard to collection, documentation, and publication by modern electronic means.
 2. Production and use of clean fuels.
 3. Adoption of environmentally cleaner production technologies.
 1. Tendency toward the utilization of renewable energy (such as solar and wind energy, hydroelectric power, and biomass energy to reduce emissions).
 2. Promotion of international cooperation based on the objective of improving air quality as a condition of contract.

Proposed Future Issues

A. Combating Desertification

The areas affected by desertification not only expanded but desertification was exacerbated in Iraq over the last years because of climate changes and other environmental factors. Leaving matters as they are will have adverse economic, social, and environmental effects. Thus, the plan aims to take effective measures to face and fight the phenomenon through combating the desert's advance onto agricultural lands by stabilizing sand dunes in the central and southern governorates; establishing desert oases; developing plant cover in desert areas; increasing natural pasture area and increasing the number of natural preserves; expanding the areas of artificial forests; and not allowing agricultural lands to lie fallow during droughts and the ongoing decrease in water resources.

B. Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Iraq released the results of the survey on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the governmental sector in December 2012 to evaluate the situation of state institutions in this area. The results of this survey indicated that more than one ministry utilizes space survey outputs in its activities to carry out its tasks, particularly in the fields of agriculture, urban planning, regional planning, and reading natural phenomena.

Iraq aims to adopt the projects that can boost Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the fields of:

1. Building infrastructure and expanding related applications specific to these technologies;
2. Building Geographical Information Systems that are useful in constructing plans, following up on their implementation, and decision making;
3. Promoting the exchange of services and projects of these technologies and the use of their shared resources.

Theme 3 Table of Summary

Main Theme	Environment and Urbanization	Progress			Challenges		Future vision	
		Poor	Medium	High	Diagnosed	Undiagnosed	Proposed	Non existent
Issues	Addressing Climate Change							
	Disaster Risk Reduction							
	Reducing Traffic Congestion							
	Air Pollution							

4. Urban Governance and Legislation

Urban legislation comes as a legal norm established by the competent authority as the primary instrument for the implementation of programs and plans for sustainable urban development, it is imperative to pursue amendment and modification of legislation according to the changing circumstances and evolving needs in the community which is the objective and goal of the legislation, failure to achieve this makes the legislation lose its credibility and the role assigned to it.

4.15 Improving Urban Legislation

4.15.1 Progress

1. Amendments to the current legislation which gives the municipality the power to convert the type of agricultural land within the municipal boundaries to urban uses to be registered in the name of the municipality for the purpose of implementation of master plans, in particular resolution (222) of 1979.
2. Amendments to the current legislation which gives the municipality authority to manage land surrounding the city beyond municipal borders (the city's hinterland) with a depth ranging between (3 to 10 km) (by class of municipality) and under the Municipal Administration Act (No. 165 of 1964) to facilitate the process of expansion and prevent unplanned growth.
3. Presence of government institutions concerned with planning in its three levels:
 - Directorate General of Physical Planning/planning functions at the level of cities and governorates.
 - Regional planning/regional level.
 - Ministry of Planning/national level.
4. There is a single window involved in the area of study and allocation of investment and development sites outside the municipal boundaries at the country level, namely the committee for the allocation of land for development and investment projects.
5. Reform of the system of issuing building permits in Iraq.

4.15.2 Challenges

1. Planning institutions are distributed on more than one Ministry (the Ministry of municipalities and public works, Ministry of planning) and Mayoralty of Baghdad for the capital.
2. Some legislation which require amendment or annulment.
3. The absence of a deterrent legal framework that prevents the continuing phenomenon of informal settlement and slum areas within cities and allows municipal organizations to address them in accordance with the indicators of the National Housing Policy.
4. Current controls and legislation had set a high ceiling of the minimum area for residential plot subdivisions which resulted in low density cities with non- efficient exploitation of the land, added to that is the universality of the laws applied to all cities, without taking into account the specificity of each city.
5. The laws governing municipal and planning work have become outdated such as the Municipal Administration Act (No. 165), issued in 1964.
6. The weak capacity of municipal institutions and cadres in implementing the tasks entrusted to it, particularly in the area of control and cleaning.
7. Resolutions and legislation permitting construction of residential complexes for investment purposes outside the borders of municipalities and cities, this trend is not valid for the difficulty of providing services to these complexes and the absence of the economic basis for them.
8. Lack of legislative frameworks and administrative structures to organize the process of housing, construction and supervision in villages and rural areas, or to provide services which made the level of services backward and encouraged unplanned migration toward the cities and building poverty belts and slum areas around.

4.15.3 Future Vision

Development of Urban Governance and Legislation is achieved through a set of goals:

1. Identify and map state and other land and develop an accessible land information management system.
2. The shift from centralized management of urban land to its decentralized management.
3. Improve the land registration system to enhance efficiency and facilitate better access to the system by all stakeholder groups, with attention to vulnerable groups.
4. Institutional strengthening of the land dispute resolution system.
5. Legal reform, such as strengthening of the Civil Code and enacting complementary laws and regulations and improving legal clarity. (For the plan: addressing multi ownership, for example).
6. Assess national capacity, covering all relevant stakeholder groups such as government, education and civil society, and the development of a capacity development and training program.
7. Rectify the conditions of waqf land, whether those with required titles or not, within the general framework of land policy.

4.16 Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities

4.16.1 Progress

Following the change in 2003, the system of laws including the Constitution shifted the State governance and management system from the Centralized Totalitarian system to a Federal system that adopts the Federal Administration, decentralization and strengthening of the capacities and powers of elected local governments and authorities to participate in decision-making, including planning decisions which is reflected through the following:

1. A portion of the State budget under the name regional development plan is allocated to local governments in proportions corresponding to population size per governorate for the implementation of development plans therein.
2. Activating the role of the sub-departments of ministries in the center of each governorate to undertake the process of implementation and monitoring of projects funded by the

investment plan and implemented in these governorates, as determined after coordination with local governments.

3. There are additional legislative steps to devolve the functions of some departments of federal ministries to local governments over the next two years to strengthen their role and functions while the ministries will maintain the role of supervision and advisory services.
4. Give extra financial funding to governorates having additional financial or natural resources (border) or (oil fields) for the development of these resources and to address the negative effects of the extractions and oil industries on the environment.
5. Assign the power of the development of new administrative units and converting some villages and rural communities to urban centers (towns) under the terms and regulations.
6. Giving local councils the power to contribute to the approval of master plans and urban plans, and control and supervision of the preparation and implementation.

4.16.2 Challenges

1. The orientations and tendencies of the current administrative structure still reflect a centralized program, despite the constitution's support of decentralization.
2. Powers and authorities overlap between the federal government and the local governments, which had directly or indirectly impacted the overall process of planning, oversight, public participation, and engagement of the private sector.
3. The limited role of the provincial councils in some areas closely related to local jurisdiction such as the selection of administrative leaders and operational budgeting.
4. Weak adoption of administrative decentralization in the delegation of authority at the Central and local levels.

4.16.3 Future Vision

Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities is achieved through a set of goals:

1. The continued strengthening of the regions and governorates development programme by increasing the percentage of the program's allocations to total investment budget of the state and delegating the responsibility of local projects.
2. Strengthening the role of local authorities in the decisions of the federal ministries with regard to projects that serve the governorates.
3. Activation of the provincial planning and development councils, coordination between federal ministries and local authorities and building the capacity of local cadres to ensure performance of the roles required in planning, implementation, supervision and control.
4. Strengthening coordination and integration between the planning directorates of the Ministry of planning and the relevant ministries and local governments, and development of provincial plans in a participatory manner.
5. The governorates to ensure fairness and transparency in the distribution of the outcomes of development to all administrative units within the governorate concerned and commensurate with its needs and population density in coordination with local councils of districts and sub-districts.

4.17 Improving participation and human rights in urban development

4.17.1 Progress

Public participation in decision making and drafting strategies of provincial councils, the business sector, citizens, and civil society organizations reached the lowest level at 18%, which indicates weak public participation in policy formulation and decision making. Public participation plays a fundamental role in the accountability, oversight, and follow up process through the provincial councils and civil society, however, a decline of 32% in participation of the parties mentioned above in all follow up and oversight operations is indicated, of which the ministries and their formations had the largest role. While 75% indicated weak public participation in preparing budgets, this may be due to the inability to mobilize financial resources and failure to make the best allocations for such. The Iraqi government placed great importance on improving Iraq's record and programs in the field of adhering to, respect,

activation, protection, and strengthening of human rights and ensuring they are enjoyed by all. In order to realize this, a sectoral committee was formed representing a base of the governmental and non-governmental institutions and with the reliance on national, regional, and international expertise. The national plan for human rights was prepared, which aims to strengthen respect for all rights through active programs, policies, and legislation in the activities handled by institutions, each according to their specialization and authorities.

4.17.2 Challenges

1. Weak participation of active parties (citizens, local councils, civil society organizations, administrative formations in the ministries) in defining priorities and the decision-making mechanism.
2. Weak culture of public participation in oversight, follow-up, and accountability mechanisms and taking corrective measures.
3. The negative phenomena in society that affect human rights .

4.17.3 Future Vision

To enhance the levels of participation and human rights in the area of urban development through a set of goals:

1. Strengthening the principle of participatory planning and implementing programs to boost a culture of public participation in (sectoral ministries and provincial councils) to build administrative leadership capacities.
2. Activating coordination between sectoral ministries and provincial councils and working in coordination and harmony in requesting financial allocations.
3. Training workers in participatory budgeting, fiscal oversight, and planning mechanisms to provide a greater area of fiscal decentralization.
4. Strengthening mechanisms for translating human rights principles on the ground by approval of international human rights rules and standards and activating government capacities to perform state obligations under international human rights conventions.
5. Strengthening the role of civil society organizations in dealing with human rights issues, providing legal and institutional protection in dealing with vulnerable groups, and raise awareness of human rights within educational curriculums and state institutions.
6. Promoting the standard of living and life for citizens through Increasing efficiency of social security networks, expanding its coverage, and ensuring its accessibility to those who deserve it.
7. Intensifying efforts to deal with begging and homelessness and addressing the problem of informal settlements

4.18 Enhancing urban safety and security

4.18.1 Progress

1. Despite the improvement in the proportion of population with regular access to an improved source of water, there is a disparity among governorates in the proportion of individuals as per the main source of improved water, rural and remote areas still suffer from the lack of access to services and the hardship and suffering endured in bringing safe potable water that is often borne by women.
2. Percentage of housing units with access to the public network of improved water rose from 81.3% in 2007 to 84.5% in 2012, while the proportion of the population with regular access to an improved source of water amounted to 83.3% in 2000, declined slightly in 2006 to 79.2% and then resumed to rise to 86.8 % in 2011.
3. Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation rose from 92.5% in 2000 to 93.8% in 2011.

4.18.2 Future Vision

Enhancing urban safety is achieved through a set of goals:

1. Security-related Safety
Locate security facilities in accordance with planning standards (police stations, civil defence stations, ambulance stations) in residential areas.
2. Social Safety
Developing a sense of citizenship and social solidarity, and non-discrimination or marginalization of any group based on economic, cultural, ethnic or religious basis in the homogeneous distribution of population and services according to this vision, or the development of technical and legislative frameworks to ensure the application of this vision in the new urban plans.
3. Environmental Safety:
 - Isolating industrial from residential areas by green buffer stripes
 - Isolating the main streets from residential neighborhoods by green buffer stripes (to reduce noise).
 - Prevent the establishment of polluting industries within the city and relocate the already existing ones outside.
 - Adherence to environmental standards in the development of economic and productivity activities.
 - Maintaining the orchards and River Front as open areas added to planned gardens and parks in the city.
 - Emphasize the implementation of infrastructure services, particularly basic ones (water, sanitation, electricity, etc.).
4. Transportation safety
 - Providing grade separation in intersections and development of traffic management system.

4.19 Improving social equity

4.19.1 Progress

The judiciary forms the main foundation on which the rule of law relies. It is the main authority entrusted with interpreting the laws to be applied. It settles disputes and protects the rights of individuals and groups; it is the safety valve for peace and democracy, and the main lever for development. Without confidence in the judiciary and a sound legal environment, there is no motivation for investment and development. Furthermore the essence of the principle of the separation of powers, which forms the cornerstone of the establishment of a true democracy and constitutes the environment guaranteeing the rule of law, is based on the presumption of an independent and impartial judiciary.

Iraqi laws and legislation have confirmed the principle of judicial independence since the establishment of the Iraqi State. The constitutions of 1925, 1970 (amended), and the 1990 draft constitution confirmed this. This principle was also included in the 2005 Iraqi constitution, which provides in Article 19 (I): “The judiciary shall be independent and there shall be no authority over it other than the law.”

4.19.2 Challenges

1. Repercussions of the security situation and the resulting anxious environment in which the judges and the general prosecution work.
2. Limited judicial system access to the needy members of marginal social groups
3. The need to restructure judicial system institutions.

4.19.3 Future Vision

Improving social equity is achieved through a set of goals:

1. Strengthening judicial independence and the institutional capacity of the judicial system , streamline the litigation and transactional procedures, support criminal court systems and integration and automation of data, strengthen the oversight and accountability mechanisms in the judicial system, strengthening the capacity of workers in the judicial system and the establishment of mechanisms for organization and development of the judicial work of the Higher judiciary Council and judicial institutions.
2. Spread legal culture in society, enhance the role of civil society for advocacy and monitoring of legislative amendments in Parliament, secure and improve opportunities for citizens to access justice, and raising awareness of the need to respect the judiciary and ensure its independence.

Theme 4 Table of Summary

Main Theme	Urban Governance and Legislation	Progress			Challenges		Future vision	
		Poor	Medium	High	Diagnosed	Undiagnosed	Proposed	Non existent
Issues	Improving Urban Legislation							
	Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities							
	Improving participation and human urban development							
	Enhancing urban safety and security							
	Improving Social Equity							

5. Urban Economy

The urban economy promotes the achievement of comprehensive sustainable development if there are potentials and development opportunities in different regions of the country which enhances opportunities for specialization and spatial localization as is the case in the diversity of the spatial structure in natural, human and economic aspects in Iraq and the consequent potential for diversified policies and developmental patterns in the governorates of Iraq.

5.20 Improving municipal/local finance

5.20.1 Progress

Local funding depends on:

- A. Regional and governorate development program which was introduced in 2006 with an initial funding 2.5% of the total investment budget for 2006 and increased to 20% of the investment budget for 2012, this program focuses on local services and activities with the allocations based on population sizes in governorates.
- B. Petro-Dollar allocations for oil, gas and oil derivatives-producing governorates. This indicator had a positive impact on the share of oil-producing governorates from the total budget dedicated for regional development as a compensation for the negative environmental impacts of oil production in said provinces and for the additional infrastructure needed for this process.

5.21 Strengthening and improving access to housing finance

5.21.1 Progress

Housing finance in Iraq depends on:

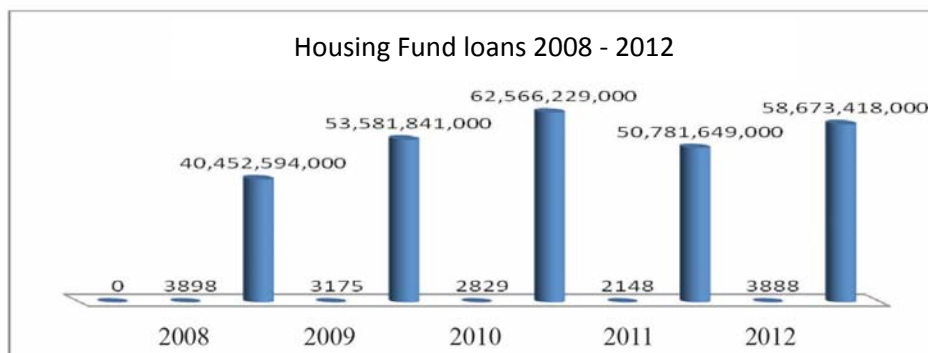
1. Real Estate Bank : the number of loans granted by the Real Estate Bank in Iraq at the provincial level for the years (2002-2009) was as shown in the table below:

Table 5

Granted loans						Governorate
2009	2008	2007	2006	2003	2002	
2638	3369	3121	817	1715	4721	Baghdad
1144	521	-	-	495	815	Al-Anbar
1332	3045	38	-	1037	1799	Diyala
730	775	1268	291	826	815	Salah al-Din
510	1444	88	998	1898	2956	Ninewa
599	632	797	607	292	995	Kirkuk
588	1110	1959	427	1166	1347	Babil
400	811	756	-	310	494	Karbala

285	674	1003	395	918	1103	Najaf
339	1061	1095	605	815	891	Wasit
475	1144	1035	407	1073	1550	Al- Qadisiya
859	1611	2438	-	780	1205	Dhi Qar
416	997	524	606	328	625	Al- Muthanna
996	894	2112	592	860	1401	Maysan
1008	1228	2699	2395	772	1688	Basra
12319	19316	18933	8140	13285	22405	Total

2. Housing Fund : total loans granted by the Housing Fund for the period 2008-2012 was (16 thousand) loans as shown in Figure:



5.21.2 Challenges

The limited capacity of the specialized and commercial banks to finance housing projects.

5.21.3 Future Vision

Strengthening and improving access to housing finance is achieved through a set of goals:

1. Increase the capital of the Real Estate Bank and the Housing Fund to reach a level that would allow them to finance family housing programs and contribute in the funding provided by investors and developers in the housing sector. The funding would be provided with easy conditions, especially for green housing projects and energy- efficient projects.
2. Activate the role of commercial banks in providing funding for housing with transparent mechanisms and flexible procedures. This funding would correspond to international developments and contexts. Also, funding activities of these banks would include the maintenance and restoration of existing housing units in addition to building new units
3. Establish a bank or private fund for rural housing with very easy conditions and provide free land for such housing. This is due to the fact that most of the housing stock in Iraqi rural areas is sub-standard and built using non-durable construction material. Iraqi rural areas hold about 40% of the country's poor, a fact that calls for exceptional support.
4. Encourage private funds such as the Retirement Fund and the Social Security Fund, as well as insurance and reinsurance companies, to invest their savings in housing as partners in joint-stock companies or as developers in the field of housing. Encourage these entities as well to focus on projects that target the middle class and limited-income households
5. Development of the organizational structure in the field of housing finance to ensure adequate opportunities for lenders to access assets in the event of failure to repay loans and this requires a new comprehensive legislation on foreclosure, repossession and resale of securities.

5.22 Supporting local economic development

5.22.1 Progress

Development indicators show a disparity in the deprivation or need-satisfaction rates among Iraqi governorates and between urban and rural areas, thus, it is necessary to raise these indicators to the nationally targeted level in order to achieve equality and justice among governorates, and subsequently at the national level.

5.23 Creating decent jobs and livelihoods

5.23.1 Progress

The situation of employment and labor market is actually the reflection of the political, economic and social situation that has been prevailing in Iraq during the last decades and until this date. This situation led to the emergence of challenges that have cast their shadows over the labor market and work environment. The National Employment Policy that was adopted in 2010 aimed at identifying strategic visions based on the demographic changes. The policy selected mechanisms that would absorb population growth and its effects on unemployment rates, thus the employment policy's orientations and the goals of the National Development Plan were aimed at the same goal that would respond to demographic changes, optimize the achievements in terms of unemployment rates that declined from 15% in 2008 to 11% in 2011 and improve the distribution of fulltime wage earners between the public and private sectors in order to increase their proportion in the public sector which amounted to 96.1% while their proportion did not exceed 48.4% in the private sector. Hence, the public sector became a source of comfort, stability and security where protected labor reached 97.1% in 2011, while the private sector became an insecure recourse for women and men employment in light of the lack of a social security umbrella. Accordingly, this situation reflects the need to draft social security laws that would cover all workers in the private sector. The private sector would consequently attract labor force and create an attractive business environment which would lay safe and sustainable foundations for the shift towards a market economy at the lowest cost.

3.23.2 Challenges

1. The parental role of the public sector that became a strategic custodian of the workforce in an economy that strives to function according to the market's mechanisms.
2. Disguised unemployment and underemployment are main characteristics of workers in the Iraqi labor force.
3. The non-legislation of the privatization law and the procrastination in restructuring public institutions deprived the private sector of the possibility of becoming a sustainable-jobs creator and suspended social security legislations for an indefinite period.
4. Failure to approve and activate the new Labor Law has frozen most of the items and intervention options of the National Employment Policy which reflected negatively on employment and the labor market in Iraq
5. Lack of consistency between the education system's outputs and the labor market needs has aggravated unemployment among graduates.
6. The complexities and conditional nature of loans mechanisms has limited the effectiveness of small income-generating enterprises and increased the high youth unemployment rate.
7. The expansion of the unregulated private sector led to the emergence of informal work and abolished the concept of decent work and the relevant adequate environment.

5.23.3 Future Vision

A productive and protected workforce

Goals and Means of Achievement

1. Reducing the unemployment rate to 6% by 2017 through increasing investment expenditures of the total public expenditure to create a job generating economy for the public and private sectors, raising the implementation efficiency of programs dealing with the implementation of investment projects , focus on economic activities with labor intensive jobs, creating a suitable investment environment that would attract private sector capital with enabling programs to develop the skills of the long-term unemployed to enter into the labor market and granting soft loans for unemployed craftsmen and skilled people.
1. Increasing the participation rate in the economic activity to %50 by 2017, legislate a social security law to strengthen the role of the formal private sector in the generation of job opportunities, creating a suitable environment to shift workers from the informal to the formal sector with specialized programs for women knowledge and skills building in order to increase their participation in the economic activity and linking vocational training and rehabilitation programmes with the labor market.
2. Development of the activities of the labor market institutions through Linking the educational systems and curricula to the labor market's actual needs and development of the labor market data and information system, activating employment centers and coordination with research and scientific centers dealing with labor market studies.
3. Increasing labor productivity through upgrading modern work systems and methods with flexible remuneration policy that responds to the economic and social developments, consolidating the values and conditions of decent work and adopting sustainable worker's rehabilitation and development programs along with the development of the vocational training centers and increasing their numbers.
1. Creating a decent work environment through promoting work ethics among the different actors in the labor system and adopting an Iraqi standard that is consistent with international requirements in this area, guaranteeing the occupational health and safety requirements in the workplace, restricting dangerous and harmful occupations and applying risk allowances thereon and updating laws related to occupational health and safety.

5.24 Integration of the Urban Economy into National Development Policy

5.24.1 Progress

Iraq has a diversity of natural conditions and terrain; its soil is suitable for agriculture, its territory comprises the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers and their tributaries and is rich in carbohydrates. Moreover, the country's infrastructure and its primary and secondary development centers are spread across all Iraqi governorates, constituting a solid foundation to start the restoration of the spatial development structure. This should be done by implementing development and redevelopment plans based on a more balanced and consistent distribution of economic activities and services according to the economic, social and human specificities of each governorate or part of governorate, and consequently bridge the development gap among the different governorates and between urban and rural areas and to eradicate the double-standard development phenomenon and the inadequate hierarchy among human settlements.

The National Strategy for Poverty Reduction approved in 2009 aimed to reduce poverty rates at the national level from 23% to 16% during the 2010-2014 period. The strategy went into actual effect in 2011 through the implementation of the National Development Plan programs that covered many of the poor areas in all governorates, and coverage rates increased in 2012 by allocating around IQD 500 billion of that year's investment budget, distributed to projects having priority within the poverty strategy. This centered on:

- Supporting the small loan fund to assist the poor
- Building low-cost housing compounds
- Eliminating clay schools
- Improving primary health care services

5.24.2 Challenges

1. Spatial disparities in development.
2. Spatial deprivation.
3. Developmental disparities between rural and urban areas
4. The absence of hierarchy in the urban system and in the structure of human settlements.
5. Spatially extended transportation system.
6. Deterioration of City Centers and heritage and historical areas.

7. Overlapping powers between Federal ministries and local governments in Iraqi regions and governorates.

5.24.3 Future vision

Integration of the Urban Economy into National Development Policy

Means of Achievement

1. Reducing spatial disparities among governorates.
2. Reducing the urban disparity between urban and rural areas
3. Improving the urban hierarchy system in Iraq.
4. Integrated transportation systems
5. Urban renewal of the city centers and review of urban land uses.
6. Promoting participation and decentralization in planning department.
7. Address the problem of informal settlements
8. Activating urban management and urban planning

Theme 5 Table of Summary:

Main Theme	Urban Economy	Progress			Challenges		Future vision	
		Poor	Medium	High	Diagnosed	Undiagnosed	Proposed	Non existent
Issues	Improving municipal/local finance							
	Strengthening and improving access to housing finance							
	Supporting local economic development							
	Creating decent jobs and livelihoods							
	Integration of the Urban Economy into National Development Policy							

Assessment of the situation of Iraq for the objectives and the Millennium Development goals

the objectives and the Millennium Development goals	Assess the situation	notes
Goal 1: Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger	On the track	Continuing decline the proportion of people living below the poverty line Decline the percentage of those who consume at least the minimum dietary energy

6. Housing and Basic Services

Housing is a human right and an essential human need that should be made available in both urban and rural areas within a healthy and adequate environment with integrated services and facilities.

6.25 Slum upgrading and prevention

6.25.1 Progress

The number of informal settlements in all Iraqi governorates amounted to 1552 informal settlement (excluding the governorates of Kurdistan) which accounted to 5% of neighborhoods in Iraq. The Iraq National Housing Policy adopted in 2010 addressed informal settlement on a case-by-case basis and the choice between upgrading or redevelopment of informal settlements is made through:

Policy no. 1: Informal settlements will be upgraded or redeveloped on a case-by-case basis. A standardized assessment of the specific settlement will be used to select an approach and design tailored interventions for each settlement. Informal settlements represent a significant contribution to the housing stock, demolishing them would exacerbate the housing deficit. Pre-feasibility studies on a given settlement will use the following criteria to select the upgrading or redevelopment approach:

1. Suitability of the proposed upgrading area for long-term residential use.
2. Redevelopment potential of the site, as measured by the economic return on similar parcels in the same town with other land uses (retail, office, industrial, etc.) or developed at a higher density (e.g. blocks of flats), in comparison with the current economic return generated by the informal housing settlement.
3. Willingness of the community to participate actively in an upgrading activity or to be relocated to another site in the case of redevelopment.
4. Institutional capacity in the public and/or private sectors to undertake an upgrading (difficult) or redevelopment (very difficult) project.

Policy no. 2: Resettlement will be done fairly, based on thorough consultation with the affected community, and residents will be compensated justly according to the law.

6.25.2 Challenges

1. Delay and hindering the redevelopment program given the significant size of infringement on the urban fabric of the city, thus hampering the planning and management of land uses.
2. Change of land uses to residential use, leading to an imbalance in urban planning and standards.
3. Direct impacts on the master plan since these infringements do not belong to the urban fabric of the city.
4. Informal settlements are encroaching on the water and electricity networks of neighboring areas, which is putting pressure on the services provided in formal areas.
5. Creation of economic and social imbalances in the city .

6.25.3 Future Vision

Addressing the issue of informal settlements

Goals and Means of Achievement

1. Develop a comprehensive plan to identify the size of the problem and its spatial distribution and giving priority to addressing it.
2. Choosing the right means to address the problem by:
 - Redevelopment of informal settlements in case it was possible to meet the minimum planning and environmental requirements and coverage with all basic services.
 - The possibility to improve the situation of informal settlements by adopting land sharing approach to develop informal settlements by subdividing part of the land into high density residential units and the other to commercial investment that would participate in financing the investing.
 - Finding areas to relocate informal settlers in case it was impossible to redevelop their areas provided that the State takes charge of the relocation requirements or providing long-term soft loans.
 - Providing job opportunities in relocation regions.
 - Adopting the necessary proactive arrangements to prevent the establishment of new informal settlements.

6.26 Improving access to adequate housing

6.26.1 Progress

Activate all possible or potential methods and procedures to achieve significant success in solving the housing problem ,especially that the country has come a long way in preparing for the advancement of this sector with an international company to implement a housing project of 100,000 housing units in the peripheries of Baghdad , namely Basmayah new residential town . Construction and housing companies plan to complete 42 housing projects with a total of 25,200 housing units by the year 2017, as well as affordable housing projects in Diyala, Salah al-Din, Anbar, Wasit and Diwaniyah with an average of 200 housing units per compound, in addition to housing projects for the poor under the poverty alleviation strategy in governorates with a number of 200 units for each governorate that provides the land required for it.

Housing complexes to be built by some private investors have also been approved, totaling 65 residential compounds in 13 governorates with a total number of 10,226 housing units for these complexes.

6.26.2 Challenges

1. The severe shortage in land suitable for the construction of housing units in urban areas, especially in large cities.
2. Limited capital available to fund housing projects from the Federal Budget and the focusing of State efforts on empowering individuals and companies, without direct and extensive intervention in housing production until now.
3. Low abilities of Iraqi investors and developers and low number of qualified investors and developers in the housing area.
4. Degradation of the housing environment in city centers and old neighborhoods of architectural significance and the absence of serious plans and procedures for the protection, redevelopment or renewal of these areas.
5. Increase in the number of households unable to secure adequate housing and the absence of programs and procedures to turn these households into potential consumers of housing units in the housing market

6. Limited supply of locally produced construction materials and some imported materials do not meet the Iraqi standards compared to the anticipated needs in the event of the implementation of ambitious housing projects.
7. The social preference of Iraqi households to live in individual housing units rather than vertical or apartment housing.
8. Lack of awareness of the importance of quality both for the materials used in the production of housing unit or the production quality, which is reflected in the cost of maintenance and restoration of housing units and their sustainability.

6.26.3 Future Vision

Adequate housing and housing environment for the largest number of households and individuals, in addition to expanding the choices of Iraqis in terms of housing quality and location

Goals and Means of Achievement:

1. Provide 1 million housing units throughout the duration of the plan and reduce the level of overcrowding and occupancy rates.
2. Reduce the spatial disparity in the shortage in housing units between governorates and raise the level of housing saturation in rural areas
3. Stop the expansion of informal housing in order to limit this problem as part of the solution for the problem of poverty in Iraq, which is concentrated in these areas and in rural areas
4. Increase housing production efficiency and reduce its cost. Pay attention to quality standards in terms of the production of environmentally friendly housing units through conservation of energy
5. Enable owners of current housing units to improve their existing houses and expand them.

6.27 Ensuring sustainable access to safe drinking water

6.27.1 Progress

This sector has not witnessed any significant development since 1990; the rate of households using potable water sources did not exceed 89% in 2011, with an unstable water supply. About 60% of the population had water delivered to their house/vicinity of the house through a piping system. There is also a huge disparity in access to potable water sources between governorates , urban and rural areas. Potable water is available to about 89% of the population, of whom 97% live in urban areas and

76% live in rural areas. Also, 65% of households use public water networks as their main source of drinking water and the public network provides 25% of users with less than two hours of water a day. On a national level, the possibility of households in rural areas to have access to water through the public network is limited. Only 47% of households in rural areas use this network, in comparison with 67% in urban areas. The salinity of the water seems to be one of the main reasons a significant percentage of households in governorates such as Basra and Maysan refrain from using public water networks.

6.27.2 Challenges

1. Outdated, lengthy networks that need to be replaced, since up to 40% of water produced in networks and pipes is wasted.
2. Outdated water plants in some districts and areas .
3. Continued decline in the water flow of rivers, which leads to a decrease in water tables below the levels of water intakes of water projects and plants.
4. The lack of annual allocations earmarked for water projects and lack of staff to operate water projects.
5. Absence of legislation and regulation to prevent trespassers from violating the networks and its pipelines.
6. Not enforcing the revenue collection law. Collected revenues only represent 9% of the operation budget for this industry, also the low tariffs for water sold that do not increase in line with the amount of water consumed
7. Lack of accurate metering systems to precisely determine water consumption.
8. The complete absence of the role of the private sector in this activity.

6.27.3 Future Vision

Ensuring sustainable access to safe drinking water for all citizens

Goals and Means of Achievement

1. Increase coverage and reduce wastage by increasing the rate of people provided with the service in governorates (except Baghdad) from 82% in 2011 to 98% in 2017 and reduce wastage of produced water from 35% to 25% in 2017
2. Expediting completion of projects in progress currently amounting to 30 projects and commit to their implementation schedules, establish new projects - 83 projects - with a production capacity of 269,000 m³/hour in areas without water services or expand the capacity of existing projects and exploit their design capacities.
3. Reduce the disparity in the level of services provided between governorates on one hand and between rural and urban areas on the other hand, through reducing the number of population without access to potable water to 2% in urban areas and 15% in rural areas.
4. Providing high quality water supply at a rate of (350 liters per capita a day)
5. Promoting the private sector's contribution to water services through the establishment of projects to produce water through the Build-Operate-Transfer method.
6. Rationalizing water use by raising the consumer awareness about rationalization

6.28 Ensuring sustainable access to basic sanitation services

6.28.1 Progress

Around 96% of population in Iraq use improved sanitation means, 99% in urban areas and 90% in rural areas. However, this percentage decreases when considering the use of a sanitation system linked to a sewage pumping network. In the latter case 4% of the population uses these systems in rural areas and 33% in urban areas. There is a prevailing dissatisfaction with the sanitation services in Iraq, with 59% of households describing these facilities as bad or very bad. This percentage increases in rural areas and reaches 85%, especially in central and southern Iraq. About 1/3 of Iraqi households have access to public sanitation services and 66% of these households are based in urban areas, mainly Sulaymaniyah and Baghdad. On the national level, more than half of the 53% of households categorized as having a high per capita spending rate have access to the public network compared to 9% of households categorized as having a low per capita spending rate. Households with no access to the public network tend to use septic tanks for 40% of households, and covered sewage holes for 25% of

households. This means that 65% of households use an unsafe sanitation method. It should be noted that 83% of wastewater is not subjected to sufficient treatment, which leads to very serious environmental problems that put the health of citizens at risk and form an obstacle to achieving sustainable development.

6.28.2 Challenges

1. The continued large deficit in the population coverage by the service.
2. Outdated sanitation networks and weak maintenance. This has affected the efficiency of performance and caused flooding and other impacts on water networks
3. Encroachment on rainwater networks and discharge of contaminated water there into.
4. Lack of experience of national consultation companies, which has led to the fact that most studies and plans for projects made after 2003 lack precision. This resulted in the need for variation orders, leading to a delay in implementation and rise in the planned cost
5. Serious environmental pollution caused by the discharge of untreated wastewater into water resources, particularly the mixing of wastewater with drinking water systems near the intakes of water projects.

6.28.3 Future Vision

Sustainable sanitation that responds to the targets of the Millennium Developmental Goals

Goals and Means of Achievement

1. Increase the proportion of population with access to sanitation networks to 35% of the population in governorates by 2017 through the completion of the implementation of on-going projects and implementation of 42 new projects in most governorates, and prioritizing implementation according to the need.
2. Rehabilitation of old sewage networks and plants and replacement of the parts affected.
3. Granting incentives for sanitation workers to reduce reluctance to work in this activity.
4. Enhancing laboratory capabilities to provide the necessary tests to ensure the discharge of treated water according to the standard specifications.
5. Removal of violations on rainwater networks.
6. Obliging laboratories and hospitals to set up their own treatment units and not to discharge untreated effluents in the sewers.
7. Intensifying supervision and quality control of water discharged in rivers.
8. Qualification and capacity building of staff working in sanitation projects.
9. Provide operational requirements necessary for the efficient exploitation of existing projects and networks.
10. Discharge of treated water to rivers in conformity to standard specifications.

6.29 Improving access to domestic clean energy sources

6.29.1 Challenges

This remains a challenge with the limited use of environmentally-friendly technology in most fields of life, especially in industrial and energy related activities that most pollute the environment, and the continued reliance on traditional systems having a negative impact on the environment.

6.30 Improving access to sustainable means of transport

6.30.1 Progress

Work on implementing inter-city public transportation projects, such as Metro, Trams or Monorail trains, particularly in Baghdad, is urgently needed in order to provide rapid and safe public transportation service, relieve congestion within cities and reduce pollution, a draft of sustainable transport law was put to formulate in 2012.

The Baghdad Metro project was handed over to the Mayoralty of Baghdad but there was no agreement on its financing. This massive project, which includes the construction of 20 Metro stations, will relieve the numerous traffic jams in Baghdad after the completion of updating its designs. The river bus project was also launched on the banks of the Tigris River to reduce congestion in Baghdad as the outset of a major project to open 15 dock terminals on the banks of the Tigris River.

Theme 6 Table of Summary

Main Theme	Housing and Basic Services	Progress			challenges		Future vision	
		Poor	Medium	High	Diagnosed	Undiagnosed	Proposed	Non existent
issues	Slum upgrading and prevention							
	Improving access to adequate housing							
	Ensuring sustainable access to safe drinking water							
	Ensuring sustainable access to basic sanitation services							
	Improving access to domestic clean energy sources							
	Improving access to sustainable means of transport							

Assessment of the situation of Iraq for the objectives and the Millennium Development goals

the objectives and the Millennium Development goals	Assess the situation	notes
Goal 7: Ensure the survival of the resources of the environment	Away from the track: Limited scope of sanitation coverage	Limitation of sanitation utilization and delivery of drinking water in rural areas

Summary table of progress, challenges and future vision of the issues pertaining to the main themes of the national report on urban development in the Republic of Iraq for Habitat III in 2016

Themes	Issues	Progress %			Challenges		Future vision	
		Poor	Medium	High	Diagnosed	Undiagnosed	Proposed	Non -existent
Urban demographic issues	Managing Rapid Urbanization							
	Spatial disparities between Rural and Urban areas							
	Addressing Youth needs							
	Addressing the needs of vulnerable groups							
	Integrating Gender in issues related to urban development							
Land and Planning processes	Ensuring sustainable urban planning and design							
	Improving urban land management, including addressing urban sprawl							
	Enhancing Urban Food Production							
	Addressing urban mobility challenges							
	Improving technical capacities for planning and management of cities							
Environment and Urbanization	Addressing Climate Change							
	Disaster Risk Reduction							
	Reducing Traffic Congestion							
	Air Pollution							
Urban governance and legislation	Improving Urban Legislation							
	Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities							
	Improving participation and human rights in urban development							
	Enhancing urban safety and security							
	Improving Social Equity							
Urban economy	Improving municipal/local finance							
	Strengthening and improving access to housing finance							
	Supporting local economic development							
	Creating decent jobs and livelihoods							
	Integration of the Urban Economy into National Development Policy							
Housing and basic services	Slum upgrading and prevention of new ones							
	Improving access to adequate housing							
	Ensuring sustainable access to safe drinking water							
	Ensuring sustainable access to basic sanitation services							
	Improving access to domestic clean energy sources							
	Improving access to sustainable means of transport							
		11	13	6	21	9	24	6

7. Indicators

	Indicators	1996	2006	2013
A	Percentage of urban poverty	-	16% (2007)	13.5% (2012)
B	Percentage of deprivation in housing (% per household)	-	14.1% (2009)	14.4% (2011)
C	The proportion of housing units with access to (water network)	-	21.6% deprived of the main source of drinking water	96. 1% serviced (2012)
D	Number of households with access to adequate sanitation services	-	37.3% deprived of sanitation means	44.4% serviced (2012)
E	Percentage of urban population with access to regular waste collection services	-	61.7% deprived	54.7.% Serviced (2012)
F	Percentage of urban population with access to domestic clean energy supply	-	-	-
G	Percentage of urban population with access to public transport services	Public transport is poor in general , the existing means do not constitute an opportunity but rather a necessity which some people are forced to use due to the lack of private means of transport	Public transport is poor in general , the existing means do not constitute an opportunity but rather a necessity which some people are forced to use due to the lack of private means of transport	Public transport is poor in general , the existing means do not constitute an opportunity but rather a necessity which some people are forced to use due to the lack of private means of transport
H	Percentage of national , regional and city authorities that have implemented enabling legislation and guidelines related to achieving the standard of decentralization and strengthening of local authorities	Very limited	All districts and sub-districts in 18 governorates	All districts and sub-districts in 18 governorates
I	Percentage of city, regional and national authorities that have implemented urban policies supportive of local economic development and creation of decent jobs and livelihoods	-	The eighteen governorates centers and a number of affiliated districts and sub-districts	The eighteen governorates centers and a number of affiliated districts and sub-districts
J	Percentage of city and regional authorities that have implemented plans and designs aiming for sustainable and resilient cities that are inclusive and respond to urban population growth adequately	-	-	60% of all cities
K	Percentage of national GDP produced in urban areas	-	-	-



**THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN
DEVELOPMENT (HABITAT III)**

**GUIDELINES AND FORMAT FOR THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS: SIX KEY
TOPICS, TWENTY SIX ISSUES AND TWELVE INDICATORS**

A. Introduction

The guidelines contained in the present document have been prepared in response to resolution of the UN-Habitat Governing Council titled “Inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)” , (HSP/GC/24/L15) ,adopted at its twenty-fourth session, by which the Council invited Member States to prepare,

“... national reports which consider the implementation of the Habitat II agenda and of other relevant internationally agreed goals and targets, as well as new challenges, emerging trends and a prospective vision for sustainable human settlements and urban development, as a basis for the formulation of a “New Urban Agenda”, in line with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 67/216” (paragraph 40), prepared before the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III, to be held in New York during the sixty-ninth session of the UN General Assembly.

Through the same resolution, the Governing Council also requested UN-Habitat to suggest guidelines and format for the preparation of national reports, which should,

... consider the implementation of the Habitat II agenda and new challenges, emerging trends and a prospective vision for sustainable human settlements and urban development, as well as cross-cutting issues, in a balanced way (paragraph 2).

In the Habitat Agenda adopted in 1996, Heads of State and Government committed themselves to two main goals, i.e. “Adequate Shelter for All” and “Sustainable Human Settlements in an Urbanizing World”, and to implementing a Plan of Action based on these goals.

With respect to the goal of “Adequate Shelter for All”, Heads of State and Government committed themselves to enabling people to obtain shelter that is healthy, safe, secure, accessible and affordable and that includes basic services, facilities and amenities, and in which everyone enjoys freedom from discrimination in housing and legal security of tenure – all fully consistent with human rights standards (paragraph 39, Habitat Agenda). In the Millennium Declaration, Heads of State and Government committed themselves to improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. They also committed themselves to halving by 2015 the proportion of the population without adequate sustainable access to drinking water and basic sanitation.

With respect to the goal of “Sustainable Human Settlements in an Urbanizing World”, Heads of State and Government committed themselves to developing societies that make efficient use of resources within the carrying capacity of ecosystems and by providing all people, in particular those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, with equal opportunities for a healthy, safe, and productive life in harmony with nature and their cultural heritage and spiritual and cultural values, and a life which ensures economic and social development and environmental protection, thereby contributing to the achievement of national sustainable development (paragraph 42, Habitat Agenda).

B. ASSESSING PROGRESS AND FUTURE vision: FORMAT AND CONTENT

I. Urban Demographic Issues

Describe what has been **achieved** by Central Government, Local Authorities (including the capital and major cities) and other subnational governmental authorities, in partnership with stakeholders, through the Habitat Agenda, in the areas listed below. Also describe the **challenges experienced and lessons learnt** in these areas, as well as **future challenges and issues** that could be addressed through a New Urban Agenda.

1. Managing rapid urbanization
2. Addressing urban youth needs
3. Responding to the needs of the elderly and aged groups
4. Integrating gender in urban development

II. Land and Urban Planning:

Describe what has been **achieved** by Central Government, Local Authorities (including the capital and major cities) and other subnational governmental authorities, in partnership with stakeholders, through the Habitat Agenda, in the areas listed below. Also describe the **challenges experienced and lessons learnt** in these areas, as well as **future challenges and issues** that could be addressed through a New Urban Agenda.

5. Ensuring sustainable urban planning and design
6. Improving urban land management, including addressing urban sprawl
7. Enhancing urban food production
8. Addressing urban mobility challenges
9. Improving technical capacity to plan and manage cities

III. Environment and Urbanization:

Describe what has been **achieved** by Central Government, Local Authorities (including the capital and major cities) and other subnational governmental authorities, in partnership with stakeholders, through the Habitat Agenda, in the areas listed below. Also describe the **challenges experienced and lessons learnt** in these areas, as well as **future challenges and issues** that could be addressed through a New Urban Agenda.

10. Addressing climate change
11. Disaster risk reduction
12. Reducing traffic congestion
13. Air Pollution

IV. Urban Governance and Legislation

Describe what has been **achieved** by Central Government, Local Authorities (including the capital and major cities) and other subnational governmental authorities, in partnership with stakeholders, through the Habitat Agenda, in the areas listed below. Also describe the **challenges experienced and lessons learnt** in these areas, as well as **future challenges and issues** that could be addressed through a New Urban Agenda.

14. Improving urban legislation
15. Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities
16. Improving participation and human rights in urban development
17. Enhancing urban safety and security

V. Urban Economy:

Describe what has been **achieved** by Central Government, Local Authorities (including the capital and major cities) and other subnational governmental authorities, in partnership with stakeholders, through the Habitat Agenda, in the areas listed below. Also describe the **challenges experienced and lessons learnt** in these areas, as well as **future challenges and issues** that could be addressed through a New Urban Agenda.

18. Improving municipal/local finance
19. Strengthening access to housing finance
20. Supporting local economic development
21. Creating decent jobs and livelihoods
22. Integration of the urban economy into national development policy

VI. Housing and Basic Services:

Describe what has been **achieved** by Central Government, Local Authorities (including the capital and major cities) and other subnational governmental authorities, in partnership with stakeholders, through the Habitat Agenda, in the areas listed below. Also describe the **challenges experienced and lessons learnt** in these areas, as well as **future challenges and issues** that could be addressed through a New Urban Agenda.

23. Slum upgrading and prevention
24. Improving access to adequate housing
25. Ensuring sustainable access to safe drinking water

26. Ensuring sustainable access to basic sanitation and drainage
27. Improving access to clean domestic energy
28. Improving access to sustainable means of transport

VII. Indicators

Provide data for the country for the following urban indicators. Data should be for 1996, 2006 and 2013

- A. Percentage of people living in slums, disaggregated by gender.
- B. Percentage of urban population with access to adequate housing, disaggregated by gender.
- C. Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to safe drinking water, disaggregated by gender,
- D. Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to adequate sanitation, disaggregated by gender.
- E. Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to regular waste collection, disaggregated by gender.
- F. Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to clean domestic energy, disaggregated by gender.
- G. Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to public transport, disaggregated by gender.
- H. Percentage of national, regional and city authorities that have implemented enabling legislation and guidelines related to achieving the standard of decentralization and strengthening of local authorities.
- I. Percentage of national, regional and city authorities that have implemented urban policies supportive of local economic development and creation of decent jobs and livelihoods.
- J. Percentage of city and regional authorities that have implemented plans and designs for sustainable and resilient cities that are inclusive and respond to urban population growth adequately.
- K. Share of national gross domestic product (GDP) that is produced in urban areas.

Note: To support countries in the preparation of their national reports with adequate data, an updated version of UN-Habitat's **Urban Indicators Programme** has been developed. The Urban Indicators Programme will also provide the data needed for the preparation of the Habitat III global report, to be led by UN-Habitat.