

Press Statement
Iraqi Al-Amal Association's Fourth Annual Conference

Iraqi Al-Amal Association held its Fourth Annual Conference in Baghdad on the 8th January 2010. The Conference discussed the Board of Trustee's report, which evaluated the Association's programmes and activities during 2009. The Conference amended and approved the report.

The report focused on four topics. The first was the general situation in Iraq. The second topic was the important role of civil society organisations and networking between them in mobilising the people and making them aware to confront terrorism and violence, ensure human security, the consolidation of democratic construction process through holding free and fair elections, influencing government policies and monitoring the performance of government institutions in the process of reconstruction and development. In this regard, the importance of Ash Wednesday Forum of the NGO's and the Iraqi Women Network initiatives were emphasised.

The third topic of the report was the evaluation of the programmes, projects and activities carried out by the Association in 2009. The programmes were diverse, maintained continuity and covered various regions and wide social groups. Many fields were covered including The dissemination of the human rights culture, gender, peace-building, conflict resolution and confronting violence against women and children, as well as by providing services in health, humanitarian and legal fields and building technical, functional and leadership skills, especially for youth and women, in addition to developing the capacities of the staff in the judiciary and law enforcement fields.

In this section, the report highlighted the studies and field researches carried out by the Association, which included the Reality of Literacy and Non-Formal Education in Iraq and the evaluation of the performance of parliamentarian women. A brochure "In her own words" was issued, highlighting the impact of humanitarian crises on women's conditions, in addition to a survey on the backgrounds of the women candidates in the recent elections for provincial councils.

The fourth topic was future programmes and, after an in-depth and extensive discussion, the conference agreed on a plan of action for the Association in 2010, focusing on women, youth and children, networking with civil society organisations in

advocacy campaigns in order to press for the enactment of The Civil Society Organisations Law, the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, continuing work towards institutionalising the Association's management and the development of the Association's human resources, financial potentials, and PR.

The Conference also approved the audited financial report for the year 2008, discussed the preliminary financial report for the year 2009 and the estimated budget of expenditures in 2010.

The conference concluded its work in a friendly atmosphere full of hope and a sense of high responsibility to achieve the Association's goals in the rebuilding of the human being and influencing social awareness in order to establish a modern civil society.

8th January 2010



