

**Address by Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jieyi at
The First Annual Review Conference of the
International Compact with Iraq
(Stockholm, 29 May 2008)**

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki,
Secretary General Ban Ki-moon,
Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Chinese Government, I wish to offer congratulations on the First Annual Review Conference of the International Compact with Iraq (ICI). I thank the Swedish Government for its work.

Sharm el-Sheikh witnessed the launching of the ICI in May 2007. It marked the beginning of a new partnership between the international community and Iraq to build a secure, unified federal and democratic nation.

In the past year, the Iraqi Government and people have demonstrated courage and resolve. Positive progress has been made in implementing targets set by the ICI. An encouraging

first step has been taken.

In the past year, the international community has honored its pledge and helped Iraq to reintegrate into the international community. The United Nations, the UNAMI in particular, has fulfilled the mission despite the difficulties. The Arab countries have stepped up their collective efforts. We highly appreciate what they have done.

As the report “A New Beginning” points out, Iraq still faces daunting challenges. We hope that Iraq will become a positive force for regional peace, stability and development. This is also the goal of the international community. In this regard, I would like to make the following four points:

First, security is the prerequisite for the reconstruction of Iraq. We are saddened by the civilian casualties in violent conflicts. We call for a quick buildup of Iraq’s own security forces so that they can assume full responsibility for Iraq’s national security. At the same time, the DDR project should be efficiently implemented, with human rights respected and protected.

Second, reconciliation holds the key to the reconstruction process in Iraq. We expect that Iraq will continue the fair, open and inclusive dialogue, bring into full play the role of the National Commission for Reconciliation and Dialogue and firmly pursue national reconciliation in a peaceful way.

Third, development is the focus of Iraq's reconstruction process. We hope that the abundant resources of Iraq will be further utilized to promote Iraq's long-term development and benefit the Iraqi people in an efficient, fair and transparent way. We support Iraq's economic and social reforms and efforts to improve governance. The "Partnership for Development" put forth by Iraq is of significance.

Fourth, international support and monitoring are indispensable to the success of Iraq's reconstruction. We call on the international community to continue cooperation with Iraq while respecting Iraq's sovereignty and independence. We welcome Iraq's proposals on enhancing the ICI review mechanism. We support the United Nations in playing its due role and encourage Iraq to expand cooperation with neighboring countries. We hope that Iraq will create more favorable conditions for it.

Dear Colleagues,

During the recent years, China has provided Iraq with a grant of 120 million RMB yuan in total. Among which, 50 million RMB yuan has been used for humanitarian assistance in public health and education, and other 50 million RMB for two sets of container screening systems. We have trained in China a total of about 300 Iraqi professionals in such fields as business

management, agriculture, electricity and petroleum. China will again provide Iraq with a grant of 50 million RMB yuan this year.

We are ready to substantially reduce and forgive the debts owned by Iraq, in particular, we will forgive all the debts owned by the Iraqi government. The Chinese Government will actively coordinate among relevant Chinese enterprises to reduce or forgive the debts owned by Iraq to them according to the arrangement of the Paris Club. We are having discussions on this with the Iraqi side. China will continue to give full support to and actively participate in Iraq's reconstruction process.

Thank you.