

Iraq

**Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary-General,
Ladies and Gentlemen, heads of delegations,
Members of the General Assembly,
Esteemed Audience,**

Peace be upon you,

A year ago we stood here when large amounts of Iraq's territory was occupied by the terrorist organization Daesh. Today, we stand again at the same place to declare before you that Iraq is being liberated and that Iraqis have been able to liberate most of their land and towns with their unity and determination. Currently we are heading towards liberating Nineveh, the last province remained under Daesh, from which we regained major areas and we shall complete its liberation by the end of this year.

We have declared 2016, as a year for liberation and victory. Our fundamental goal is to liberate our people before the land and to save the civilians from Daesh that ruined all aspects of life and destroyed archeological monuments of the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia.

Assisted by our friends in the international community, we started to implement programs for the return of internally displaced people to their liberated areas, where we developed

an integrated program for re-stabilization and service provision, particularly; water, electricity, schools and hospitals. We call on the international community to maintain further their support for the sheltering and returning of IDPs, especially, with the forthcoming battle to fully liberate Nineveh and the anticipated increase of displaced persons.

While we thank all those who stood beside our people in the face of economic and security challenges, we look forward to further support and collaboration. We commend the United Nations humanitarian assistance to the people of Iraq and its role in addressing IDP issues. We applaud support extended by the States of the international coalition to tackle terrorism. We praise the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other international organizations for shoring up plans and efforts of the Iraqi government to reform the Iraqi economy, overcome the financial crisis and implement anti-corruption measures. We highly appreciate the constructive position of G7 States and thank the Donors Conference recently held in Washington.

In the field of economic and financial reforms, the government has implemented an ambitious program to reduce government expenditure despite the challenges and necessities of spending to sustain the war against terrorism.

Furthermore, the government has initiated the restructuring of many state institutions as part of administrative reforms and has prioritized citizen services, streamlining procedures, alleviating obstacles and simplifying the dealing with citizens and removing the obstacles in front of investment. The government has strengthened the ways for partnership with the private sector.

As for fighting corruption, we have signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Development Program to benefit from international expertise to aid Iraq in building capacity to fight the problem of corruption, and last few weeks have witnessed practical steps in this regard.

We look forward to the day when Iraq and the whole region is free of Daesh. Nevertheless, our delight would come true only when the whole World becomes free from terrorism that threatens our peoples and nations. This requires serious collaboration to besiege terrorism, dry out its ideological and financial resources, and demolish its networks and recruitment hubs which are all over the world. Without such co-operation, terrorism would reach everywhere and refugees fleeing conflict areas would increase in numbers, which has already reached serious and unprecedented levels.

We assure you that Daesh is literally an adversary to Islam, rather than other convictions, they have murdered thousands of Muslims and caused destruction in many of the Arab and Islamic States, and it has also transmitted its evil to other Capitals and cities worldwide; killing and terrorizing civilians in France, Belgium, Germany, the United States, Russia and the rest of the world. There is no choice but to cooperate to win the war against terrorism. We deem any victory achieved against Daesh anywhere in the world as a global triumph.

The danger of formation of terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaeda or Daesh will not end until we address the problem of the radical ideology of these backward groups that rely on sectarian segregation and adversarial thought against all faiths and beliefs, which is fed by the short vision that has hindered the opportunities of development in our countries.

To combat this scourge, which has spread amongst youth and exploited the feeling of discontent amongst them, requires a real stand from countries and organizations to review the programs and educational curriculums, and to remove these feelings of frustration and to absorb these youths and to cut the way for any attempts to reform such terrorist organizations in the future.

Daesh, which falsely claimed the defense of Sunnis; is killing Shiites, Sunnis, Christians, Yazidis, Arabs, Kurds and Turkmens as well. Their atrocities involved all the spectrum of Iraq, it diversified between Takfir, displacement, women enslavement, genocides, and destruction of antiquities, mosques and churches. Such hideous crimes were perpetrated against cities such as Amerly, Sinjar, Taza, Anbar, Mosul, Salahuddin and Diyala as well as upon the victims of the Speicher carnage, notwithstanding the cowardly terrorist attacks on civilians in the districts of Baghdad and the rest of Iraq's provinces.

Iraq encountered two external factors that affected stability, economic and social growth. Apart from terrorism, we came across the global decline in oil prices that caused budget loss of more than 70 percent of revenues with the increasing military expenditure and security burdens to free Iraqi cities from terrorism. So it was natural to negatively impact plans for development, investment and construction. Despite all of these harsh and risky challenges we continued in the implementation of our comprehensive reform program and combated corruption which penetrates in joints of the state and society. From the outset we realized that this reform program wouldn't be less difficult and dangerous than tackling terrorism. We are determined, however, to implement it despite all the challenges. We are confident to win the battle

of reforms like we won the battle to liberate our land. Since we and our people stand together in the same trench to fight terrorism and corruption and work together to build a state on the basis of peaceful coexistence and respect for religious, ideological and sectarian diversity, under the rule of values and principles of Justice and equality.

Each Iraqi contributes to the victory achieved in the fight against Daesh. It is a National and non-conventional battle involving all the Iraqi People without discrimination. Our forces of the Army, the federal and local police, the popular mobilization, the tribal mobilization and the Peshmerga belong to different religions, ethnicities and sects but they share one goal to defend their home and sanctities. This defense enjoys support by the religious authority and wisdom led by Grand ayatollah Sayyed Ali al-Sistani whose historical Fatwa formed a strong mobilization made up of all Iraqi people and was supported by religious figures of all Iraqi component.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Iraq is zealous to participate with the World nations' endeavor to achieve development and meet goals of sustainable development, combating poverty and discrimination,

protecting the environment, enhancing programs of childcare, improve levels of health and education. Our intent is to provide a proper environment that promotes freedom, human rights, impartiality and vital participation of women in the state and society.

We call on the nations worldwide to commit to the application of the resolutions of the UN Security Council pertinent to the prevention of support, finance or armament to the terrorist groups, in addition to the UN General Assembly's resolutions related to the safeguarding of the Iraqi cultural Heritage. We hereby note the Iraqi accomplishment in cooperation with the UNESCO to include Ahwar (marshes) of Southern Iraq in the list of World Heritage. We are keen to meet the inclusion requirements for the rest of the cultural sites and treasures of the ancient civilization of Iraq as well.

We take this opportunity to call on the international community to exert efforts to end conflicts, prevent wars, support peace and security, encourage development opportunities and refrain from policies to intervene in the internal affairs of other States. Such policies lead to more suffering of peoples and deepened divisions in our region which still undergoes internal wars and external interventions that exacerbated misery of civilian populations to serious levels.

We appeal to the international community to maintain and pay due respect for Iraq's sovereignty and demand Turkey to withdraw its forces from Iraq's territory where the existence of such forces, aside from being rejected by Iraqis, hinders our efforts in liberating Nineveh (Mosul).

We confirm that the Iraqi government is working hard to attain a peaceful coexistence among the Iraqi people and deals with all citizens equally based on good citizenship, regardless of their religion, sect, ethnicity and components.

We renew our gratitude to the United Nations organization and our friends for their supporting position with Iraq and the Iraqi people all through varied humanitarian programs to care for the displaced and refugees. Furthermore, we extend our thanks for their support of the Iraqi government's efforts in attaining security and stability, achieving reforms and economic development that our people aspire to.

Peace, Mercy and Blessings of Allah may be upon you.

Dr. Haidar al-Abadi

Prime Minister

Republic of Iraq

22nd September 2016