

**Statement of H.E. the Governor of the Central Bank of Iraq,**

**Mr. Mustafa Ghaleb Mukheef**

**At the Annual Meetings of the Islamic Development Bank, 3-4 September 2021**

Your Excellency, the Chairman of the Islamic Development Bank Group

Your Excellencies and Honours, the Governors of Banks, Central Banks, and Islamic Institutions

Ladies and gentlemen

Esteemed guests

As-salamo alaykom wa rahmat Allah wa barakatuh,

It is a pleasure and privilege to welcome you all to the 46<sup>th</sup> IsDB Annual Meeting. I would also like to thank the government and people of the Republic of Uzbekistan for their hospitality, and to wish this country further progress and prosperity. Furthermore, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to H.E. Dr. Bandar bin Mohammad Hamza Hajjar, the outgoing Chairman of the IsDB Group, for his remarkable efforts in serving this esteemed institution over the past years, and to congratulate H.E. Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser for his election as the new Chairman and vow to support him in achieving the goals of our institution (IsDB).

The Central Bank of Iraq continues to promote its efforts with many achievements and developments that represent historical transformations in its policies, regulations, and institutional structure. Within the framework of monetary policy, it continues to target monetary stability, control inflation, and maintain a high level of foreign reserves. The Central Bank of Iraq continues to promote its efforts with many achievements and developments that represent historical transformations in its policies, regulations, and institutional structure. Within the framework of monetary policy, it continues to target monetary stability, control inflation, and maintain a high level of foreign reserves. On the other hand, it continues to target economic growth, while eyeing the imperative of diversifying the Iraqi economy so that it does not revolve exclusively around oil revenues.

The main mandate of the Central Bank of Iraq is to maintain a two-prong policy: (i) preventing the exposure of the financial system to an unacceptable level of risk through early detection of vulnerabilities; and (ii) following remedial policies that aim to contain and curb the crisis as soon as possible in order to achieve financial stability by providing an appropriate financial environment while regularly developing and monitoring solvency and financial soundness indicators.

To stimulate the real sector and reflect this transformation on the monetary policy, the Central Bank of Iraq launched various initiatives, programmes, and plans, including initiatives for loans for industrial, agricultural, real estate, and housing purposes, and the initiative on SME financing through private and public banks, which is the largest lending initiative in Iraq's history.

The Iraqi economy faced great challenges, as manifested in the dual crisis: the COVID-19 health crisis and the financial crisis caused by the decline in oil prices, which has dealt a severe blow to the Iraqi economy. Today, we look forward to IsDB's immense efforts to provide support for infrastructure projects in Iraq and development loans, as a positive and effective step in this regard.

In conclusion, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all participants in the meeting for their diligent efforts and interest in priority issues and developments of our Arab and Islamic region. Our thanks also go to all the banks and central banks that are keen to follow-up and participate.