

U.S. Department of Commerce and Iraq Ministry of Trade
Joint Statement on Commercial Cooperation

On the occasion of the visit of the Secretary of Commerce of the United States of America, Carlos Gutierrez, to the Republic of Iraq and the discussions held with the Minister of Trade of the Republic of Iraq, Dr. Abd-al-Falah al-Sudani, on enhancing cooperation between the Department of Commerce (DOC) of the United States of America and the Ministry of Trade (MOT) of the Republic of Iraq (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties");

Noting the commercial goals and objectives of the Republic of Iraq, and its desire to promote economic reform, development of the private sector in Iraq, and development of private and public organizations that support trade development;

Desiring to promote commercial cooperation between the United States of America and the Republic of Iraq on the basis of mutual benefit within the framework of their respective laws and regulations; and

Wishing to enhance their relationship through the establishment of a framework for continued consultation and cooperation;

The Parties have created the following Work Plan:

Priority Issues

- I. Develop favorable conditions for strengthening commercial cooperation between their private sectors.
- II. Develop and implement appropriate public and private sector capacity-building programs related to domestic and international commerce.
- III. Establish a forum for cooperation to exchange information on commercial matters and to encourage discussions on a variety of issues such as, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. Commercial opportunities;
 - b. Iraqi growth sectors;
 - c. Investment opportunities;
 - d. Laws and regulations that facilitate trade and investment;
 - e. Good governance for the public and private sector;
 - f. Government transparency;
 - g. Open and transparent public tenders systems;
 - h. Business impediments, and issues of concern to the business communities of both Parties;
 - i. Standards;
 - j. Intellectual property protection;
 - k. Iraq constitution's and regions' influence on current investment law; and

- i. Other steps that may be taken to foster growth and enhance commercial relations between the Parties.

IV. Establish cooperation between the DOC Trade Information Center and the MOT Iraqi Trade Information Center in the fields of information technology, information exchanges, and capacity building.

V. Support commercial exchanges between their respective private sectors. Such endeavors may include the following:

- a. Encouraging and facilitating participation of their respective private sectors in permanent, temporary and specialized trade fairs;
- b. Supporting the organization and sponsorship of internet exchanges, trade missions, exhibits, seminars, and other venues intended to improve the Parties' commercial relationship; and
- c. Encouraging and facilitating the conclusion of commercial contracts between enterprises of each Party within the rules and regulations in force in both countries.

Working Group

A Working Group, consisting of officials from both Parties, will be created to address the above issues. Each Party will select a co-chair for the Working Group.

Deliverables

The Secretary of Commerce and the Minister of Trade will appoint co-chairs to the Working Group as provided above.

The Secretary of Commerce and the Minister of Trade will approve the creation of and the terms of reference for the U.S.-Iraq Business Dialogue.

The Secretary of Commerce will provide information on upcoming trade fairs in the United States and third countries that Iraqi delegations may be interested in attending.

The Secretary of Commerce provided details on the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) "Standards in Trade" construction and housing seminar in July 2006. The Parties will discuss lessons learned and follow up activities.

The Secretary of Commerce is sending two trade advisors to Iraq for one-year assignments to help on standards and trade development and promotion issues.

The Secretary of Commerce announced a Commercial Law Development Program for Iraq.

The Secretary of Commerce and the Minister of Trade will discuss future capacity building and U.S. corporate outreach specific to the needs of the Iraqi Public Distribution System and food infrastructure.

Follow-Up

Following the first meeting, the Working Group shall endeavor to define capacity building needs and present these to the principals.

General Provisions

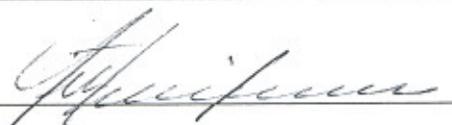
Obligations of each Party under this Work Plan are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and the respective laws and regulations of the United States and Iraq.

For the Department of Commerce of
the United States of America:

For the Ministry of Trade of Republic
of Iraq:

Carlos Gutierrez

Abd-al-Falah al-Sudani



Date: July

Date: 17-7-2006