

Mr. Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Regional Railway Association of the Middle East

Mr. Director-General of UIC at the International Railway Federation

Mr. Director, Middle East Regional Office

Peace upon you and god's mercy and blessings

We are pleased to participate in the work of this session of the assembly of Railway Association in the Middle East

under the auspices of the International Federation and we hope that Iraq's participation in this session will be important and effective .We had continuous serious cooperation and coordination among the member states of the assembly in the interests of the peoples of these countries.

It is well known that the importance of international transportation of cargo by rail in promoting and increasing the economic growth of any country ,Iraq is one of these countries where it has a network of railways about 2050 kilometers length including 115 stations located in Baghdad and nine provinces and linked to the Syrian rail network and from there to Turkey and Europe where the average daily transport of trucks was about 29,000 thousand tons despite the difficult circumstances that Iraq went through, but unfortunately transportation stopped when (ISIS) attacked our cities and destroyed the railway infrastructure such as railway lines and stations in northern and western regions. Iraqi railways have reconstructed those areas after the control of the Iraqi security forces, hence rehabilitated lines were put into operation:

- Baghdad-Fallujah railway with a length of 63 km
- Baghdad-Samarra railway line with a length of 173 km
- Baiji -Qayara railway line with a length of 125 km

The Ministry of Transport is also seeking with strong will and determination to restore the infrastructure of the destroyed areas and connect the Iraqi rail network to the railway networks of neighboring countries because of its full faith that Iraq has strategic location represents part of the Silk Road and the shortest routes for transporting goods and passengers between East and West, and its economic dimension and direct impact on transport traffic in the Middle East in particular within the framework agreement between Iraq and China, which in turn will encourage the activation of transit trade between Southeast Asian countries and the Gulf States and also to Turkey and Europe

, which in turn leads to an economic and civilization renaissance in the regions it passes through.

The ministry has already begun to build the great port of Faw, which has reached advanced stages of completion, coinciding with the implementation of the project of the dry longitudinal canal, which is around 1,200 kilometers from Fao to Mosul, where it will reduce the distances between the Arabian Gulf and Europe another transverse dry canal linking Iran to the port of Aqaba in Jordan, which will provide the region and Iraq, in particular, a major economic recovery for the commercial railway transportation boom.

Iraqi railways have already begun to complete the designs for projects that pass through some southern, northern, and western ports and have signed several memorandums of understanding and minutes of meetings with officials in neighboring countries:

- 1- The railway link between Iraq and Jordan within the railway project (Rotba - West Ramadi - Trebeeil - Jordanian border)
- 2- The railway link between Iraq and Turkey within the railway project (Mosul- Dohuk - Zakho - Turkish border)

The railway seriously studying the link with Turkey via:

- route 1 Rabia - Dohuk - feshkhapur
- route 2 Tel Mark - Dohuk - feshkhapur

3- The railway link between Iraq and Iran within the railway project (Basra- Shalamaja - Iranian border)

4- The railway link between Iraq and Saudi Arabia within the railway project (Samawa- Salman- Jemima - Saudi border)

In conclusion, thank you for your good listening and we hope that cooperation and coordination will continue to to benefit from this session to maximize the cooperation and support in the interest of our people and countries

thankyou