

Dear Excellences . . .

Ladies and gentlemen . . .

Good evening and you are all very welcome. . .

I am pleased today we are here for the open ceremony of the JCC's building. I would like to extend our thanks to the GIZ, the German Government, and EU for providing financial and technical support for this project through the QUDRA programme.

I also commend the JCC and GIZ teams for supervising and implementing this project successfully within a short time.

We are proud of the QUDRA programme and we consider it as one the successful humanitarian interventions in Kurdistan. Until today, 58 projects implemented successfully and have benefited around 700,000 people inclusive refugees, IDPs and host communities in the Kurdistan Region.

Dear Guests . . .

Having a developed institution for crisis coordination, response and management in Kurdistan is very important and needed. Therefore, the decision to establish the JCC was rightly and very sound, especially for coordinating and managing IDPs and refugee crisis in Kurdistan.

Within a short time, JCC has played a central role in managing coordination internally within KRG Ministries and Departments, with federal ministries and departments as well as with international partners such as UN agencies and local and International NGOs and donors.

And also managing information and data, leading humanitarian assistance, contingency and humanitarian planning at the regional and governorate levels.

Our objective is that KRG has a developed system for crisis management and response so we will be able to predict crisis and disasters in order to mitigate the risks and reduce the effects on the population, economy and environment. For this purpose, we have endorsed the strategic plan in 2017.

I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the representatives of the KRG Ministries and Departments who are present here for their continued cooperation and coordination with JCC for implementing the strategy and also for managing the humanitarian crisis during the last five years.

We thank all partners and donor countries for their technical and financial assistance provided to JCC since its inception in 2014 until today, especially the governments of Germany, United Kingdom, Japan and Sweden.

As well as the partners like GIZ, THW, UNDP, MSB, UNHCR, IOM and WFP.

The five years' war with ISIS has had dire and complex humanitarian, social, political, economic and religious consequences. Today, we have a big challenge in front of us that is preventing the reemergence of ISIS and the outbreak of another crisis in Iraq.

The stabilization process in the liberated areas and solving these dire consequences of the five years ISIS war needs long time to prepare the required conditions for a successful return of the IDPs to their place of origin with dignity and respect. Until then, they need humanitarian assistance and due to the financial and economic crisis in Kurdistan, majority of them do not have any source of livelihoods and they are dependent on the assistance provided to them.

Therefore, I call upon you to continue providing assistance to the IDPs and refugees and the KRG departments so that we keep the services running for all the displaced people in Kurdistan Region.

And also providing technical and financial assistance to the JCC so that they be able to develop institutional infrastructure and human resources within the framework of the strategic plan to be able manage current humanitarian crisis and future emergencies.

We are also very pleased that in yesterday's meeting, the EU Madad Board approved unanimously the Qudra's phase two. We thank the board and member countries, especially Germany and GIZ for their outstanding role in this regard.

We assure you that we will continue providing all support and facilitation for the second phase of the QUDRA programme so that the projects implemented successfully and benefit the maximum number of the refugees, IDPs and host communities.

Finally, we thank and appreciate the outstanding role of Ms. Jenny and for her services in the last two years. We wish her good luck and success in her future job as her work is ending in Kurdistan.

Thank you again to all of you. . .