

Statement by KRG Coordinator for International Advocacy

September 15, 2021

**The Approval of the Regional Plan for Human Rights by the KRG Council of Ministers will Develop Sense of Collective Responsibility to Improve Human Rights Principles**

During its regular session on Wednesday September 15, 2021, the KRG Council of Ministers approved the Regional Plan for Human Rights Plan (2021-2025), which was prepared by the Office of the Coordinator for International Advocacy (OCIA). The plan sets roadmaps to manifest the stipulations of international treaties and conventions in the domestic legislations.

In this regard, Dr. Dindar Zebari, KRG Coordinator for International Advocacy stated that the Council of Ministers in the Federal Government approved the National Plan for Human Rights (2021-2025), which was prepared by the National Committee for Writing Reports to Treaty and Non-treaty Agreements. The Office of the Coordinator participated in the preparation of the national plan, and we also coordinated and consulted with ministries, civil society organizations and the United Nations in preparing a draft regional plan parallel to the national plan of the Federal Republic of Iraq.

The plan serves as a regional document, roadmap, and a clear platform for action, defined with time frames and priorities in the next four years, which are part of legislation and policies to enhance and develop the human rights situation. It also creates a sense of collective responsibility to motivate all concerned parties to work to ensure the protection of human rights.

KRG Coordinator added that the regional plan was developed in consultation with the Judicial Council, the Presidency of the Kurdistan Region, the Presidency of the Parliament, the United Nations Assistance Mission to Iraq (UNAMI), all ministries, bodies and departments of the government, civil society, non-governmental organizations and concerned unions. The Independent Commission for Human Rights will be a monitoring body for the implementation of the plan.

"The plan consists of 27 sections. It is an extensive roadmap that covers almost all the areas of human rights and good governance, including rule of law, fighting corruption, freedom of expression, women rights, and religious freedoms, among others. The plan and the implementation mechanism is compatible with the agenda of the Ninth Cabinet of KRG to promote and uphold comprehensive reforms.

On the objectives of the regional plan, Dindar Zebari said that "the regional plan aims to implement the program of the Ninth Cabinet of the Kurdistan Regional Government, in addition to ensuring the harmonization of legislation in force in the region with international conventions and treaties related to the protection and promotion of human rights, consolidating the achievements made by the region in this field, in addition to building and strengthening institutional and individual capacities, including the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and all other conventions and treaties."

And about the challenges that the regional government may face in implementing the plan, Zebari stated that "despite the difficulties and challenges, the regional government was and still is keen to fulfill its obligations in this field by issuing laws, instructions and starting practical steps to implement them, including the Law to Protect the Rights of Components, the Law to Combat Domestic Violence, the Law on the rights of persons with disabilities, the enforcement of the Anti-trafficking Law, the Press Law, and the Integrity Commission law, among others.

The KRG Coordinator further said that "the plan relies on a number of procedures and priorities in implementation that represent a strategic vision, including reviewing legislation and proposing amendments thereto, providing a supportive environment for the independence of the judiciary, and developing training programs for law enforcement personnel in accordance with international standards and, accordingly, to work to ensure full equality and equal opportunities with respect to all rights.

At the end of his statement, Zebari stated that "the Kurdistan Regional Government is working to ensure the protection and promotion of respect for human rights and the rights and freedoms stipulated in the Iraqi Constitution, applicable laws, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and conventions related to human rights."