UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

Vision

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) is a political mission established by the 2003 UN Security Council resolution 1500 at the request of the Government of Iraq. It has been on the ground ever since, with its role greatly expanded in 2007 with the passage of Resolution 1770.

The mission is headquartered in Baghdad and the contributions of United Nations agencies, funds, and programmes to the objectives outlined take place “as circumstances permit” under a unified leadership of the Secretary-General through his Special Representative for Iraq.

UNAMI is mandated to advise and assist the Government and people of Iraq in a number of areas. These include advancing inclusive, political dialogue and national reconciliation, assisting in the electoral process and in the planning for a national census, facilitating regional dialogue between Iraq and its neighbours, and promoting the protection of human rights and judicial and legal reform. UNAMI assists the coordination and implementation of programmes to improve Iraq’s capacity to provide essential services for its people and to promote economic reform, capacity-building and the conditions for sustainable development. It works to promote the protection of human rights and judicial and legal reform to strengthen the rule of law in Iraq.

Work in Iran

The UNAMI Liaison Office in Tehran, established in 2010, contributes to UNAMI’s efforts to develop a strategy for Iraq’s engagement with its neighbours, in particular Iran.

Our work

The UNAMI Tehran Liaison Office works with UNAMI and other United Nations agencies inside Iraq, to advance cooperation between the two countries. The Office has focused on environmental issues, in particular the regional problem of dust and sand storms - which heavily impacts the population in Iran – and has provided assistance on border de-mining, combatting drug trafficking and trans-boundary water management.

The role of the office is to foster cooperation between Iran and Iraq on these issues. It does not engage in operational activities for development, but leverages the operational capacities of UN agencies to achieve its objectives. Given
Iran’s prominent role in the region, the Office also keeps United Nations Headquarters informed on a regular basis on relevant domestic, bilateral and multi-lateral developments.

Activities of UNAMI’s Liaison Office in Tehran include to:

• Ensure regular dialogue with the Islamic Republic of Iran (especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) concerning events in Iraq as well as in the broader region to promote *inter alia* regional cooperation.

• Pursue potential areas of bilateral cooperation between Iran and Iraq, e.g. border demining, drugs control, trans-boundary water management and combating dust storms with the Government ministries of both countries.

• Act as a conduit for information between UNAMI HQ and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

• Provide the United Nations with analysis of key political and socio-economic developments inside Iran as well as on Iran’s influence in the region, including in particular Iraq.

• Serve in an advisory and liaison capacity to the diplomatic community and to the UN Agencies in Tehran, as well as agencies with cross-border programmes.