

Senior Official Meeting on Supporting Job Creation and Vocational Training to
Facilitate Weapons Reduction for Iraqi Society

Tokyo, 5 April 2018

Co-Chairs' Summary

Iraq has suffered from a repeated cycle of violence that hindered reconstruction, socio-economic activities and private sector investment. It has been widely recognized that economic growth cannot take place in a security vacuum, and likewise security cannot be assured in the absence of sustained development.

The Senior Official Meeting on Supporting Job Creation and Vocational Training to Facilitate Weapons Reduction for Iraqi Society held in Tokyo on 5th April 2018, gathered participants from states in the Middle East and elsewhere as well as international organizations concerned. The aim of the meeting was to develop a common understanding of current conditions on-the-ground in Iraq, with emphasis on security and job creation, confirming the importance of supporting the efforts of Iraqi people in building sustainable peace with an integrated approach in the security-development nexus.

Presentations were made by the Iraqi government on conditions conducive to effective weapons and ammunitions management. The presentations also focused on addressing unemployment among youth and vulnerable groups as a potential source of violent extremism. One of the major challenges is to organize vocational training that meets the needs of the labor market.

In moving forward, a phased approach was raised at the Meeting. It would be initiated with an analytical work and technical assessments that would be conducted in cooperation with relevant international partners in particular the World Bank, so as to form a basis for pilot initiatives to test approaches to security-development nexus in Iraq. In this regard, the co-chairs announced the establishment of a working group to coordinate planning and engagements, which enjoyed broad acceptance from the participants.