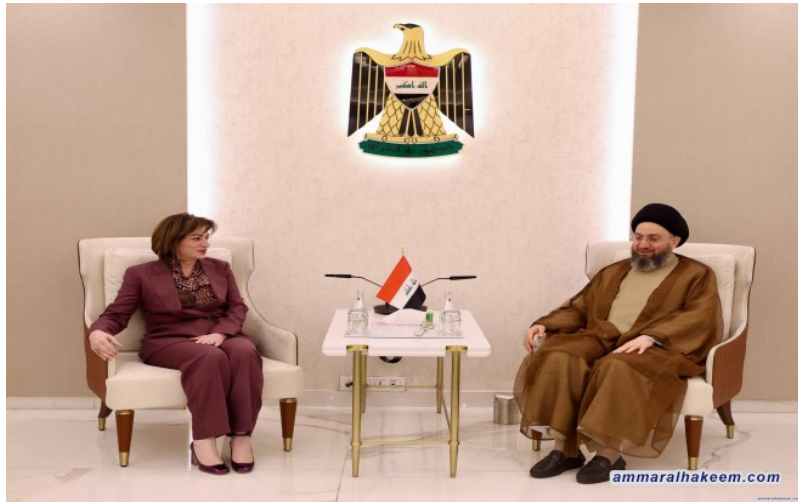


Sayyid Al-Hakeem Affirms Involving Universities, Specialists importance to Address Environmental File



His Eminence Sayyid Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance, met with His Excellency the Minister of Environment, Ms. Sarwa Abdul Wahid, extending his congratulations on the occasion of her receiving the confidence of the Iraqi Parliament and wishing her success in performing her duties – particularly as she is the sole female minister in this ministerial cabinet.

During the meeting, H.E. called for attention to Iraq's environmental reality and the reduction of pollution levels, stressing the necessity of the Ministry's opinion being binding and conclusive in the implementation of projects. H.E. also affirmed the importance of preserving and protecting biodiversity, and of effective coordination with local governments.

H.E. noted that Iraq's environmental problems have multiple causes, foremost among them the remnants of wars, climate change, declining river levels, and urban overcrowding, affirming that addressing them requires a comprehensive vision with defined timelines and the participation of specialists from universities and other ministries. H.E. also affirmed the importance of the work environment and the school environment, and the necessity of raising environmental awareness of the risks arising from pollution.