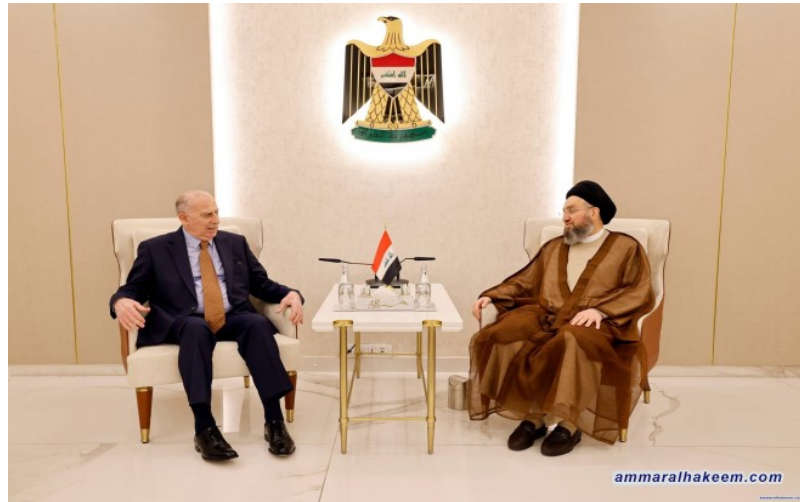


Sayyid Al-Hakeem: Next Phase Requires Communication, Solidarity, Closing Ranks to Face Challenges



His Eminence Sayyid Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance, received at H.E.'s office in Baghdad the Secretary-General of the Muttahidoon Party, Mr. Osama Al-Nujaifi, and discussed developments in Iraq and the region and the end of the International Coalition's mission, explaining that ending the Coalition's mission is evidence of Iraq's recovery and restoration of its sovereignty, and heralds the closing of the terrorism chapter. H.E. stressed the importance of communication and solidarity in the coming phase, and of closing ranks to face challenges, foremost among them the economic challenge, explaining that Iraq is among the countries hardest hit by regional events and the escalation there.