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BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ AND UKRAINE

Bilateral political relations

1. Establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries and stages of their development

Prior to 1990, Iraq's relations with Ukraine had not expanded beyond the framework of the relationship with the former Soviet Union, since a substantial share of Soviet exports to Iraq originated from Ukraine. However, Ukraine's involvement in building infrastructure in Iraq along with its contribution to the development of the Iraqi industrial sector during the 1980s became a solid foundation for the development of bilateral ties. After Ukraine declared independence in 1991, Iraq remained one of its economic partners, and in 1992, diplomatic relations between the two countries were established, when Iraq's ambassador to the Russian Federation was appointed a non-resident ambassador to Ukraine. That was followed by the opening of the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Ukraine on 24 January 2002.

For its part, Ukraine opened its embassy in Iraq in May 2001; however, due to the war that was raging in Iraq at that time, the Ukrainian Embassy suspended its work in 2003 and resumed its operation in March 2004. Ukraine also has an honorary consulate in Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan.

2. Iraqi-Ukrainian Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation

The Iraqi-Ukrainian Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation was established in 2001. Four sessions of the Joint Commission have been held, with the latest one (the 4th) taking place in Baghdad on 2–3 December 2012. Preparatory work for the 5th session of the Joint Commission is underway.

3. Political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries

On 28–29 March 2017, Kyiv hosted the 3rd round of political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq and Ukraine. The Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Ukraine is working on the arrangement of the 4th round of the political consultations.

4. Cooperation in regional and international organisations

The two countries (the Republic of Iraq and Ukraine) cooperate within the framework of international organisations on many issues of common interest.

Inter-parliamentary relations

With a view to discussing issues of mutual significance, the two countries have formed Parliamentary Friendship Groups in their legislatures. Their competence covers organising visits of parliamentary delegations and coordinating contacts between the Council of Representatives of the Republic of Iraq and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in respect of interaction between MPs of the two countries and the role played by the Parliamentary Friendship Groups.

Military relations

The structural elements of the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Ukraine and the Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of Iraq are the Military Attaché Offices. They handle issues regarding long-term military cooperation between the two countries.

Economic and trade relations

In 2013, the Iraqi-Ukrainian Business Council was established. In 2021, the trade turnover between Iraq and Ukraine amounted to almost \$700 million, but the real number significantly exceeds the said volume, as Ukrainian goods enter the Iraqi market under various trademarks.

Bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding

There are more than 25 agreements and memoranda of understanding between the two countries in various fields, nine of which have already been signed. The rest are represented by draft agreements and memoranda of understanding at the stage of official correspondence, and the Embassy monitors their status.

Bilateral relations in the field of science

Over recent years, thousands of Iraqi students have graduated from Ukrainian educational institutions. Besides, the Iraqi private school Al-Naama is operating in Kyiv.

Iraqi Community

In 2021, the Iraqi Community in Ukraine exceeded 5,500 people. It is one of the oldest Arab communities in Ukraine, and it is integrated into Ukrainian society.

There are two civil society organisations affiliated with the Iraqi Community:

- “Iraqi House” that was established in Kyiv in 2009;
- “Association of Youth and Students of Iraq in Ukraine”, which has been functioning since 2015.