Ladies and Gentlemen participating in the Arab-Africa Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Tunis, Tunisia, from 9-13 October 2018.

It is my pleasure and honour to convey to you the greetings of the Iraqi Government and the Iraqi people and their deep thanks to the generous invitation to our country to participate in the Arab-Africa Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and their sincere wishes for the success of this important event. That is in addition to reaching serious recommendations that represent the radical solutions to contemporary challenges and enabling the participating countries from preventing accidents and disasters and reducing their risks as well as success during the recovery of areas affected by these disasters through the joint efforts of all.

Ladies and Gentlemen participating in the Platform

I would like to take this opportunity presented to my country to participate in this platform. We would like to show you the most important practical steps taken by the Iraqi Ministry of Environment in implementing the content of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which can be summarized by the following main points:

1- An executive ministerial committee was formed for the above mentioned strategy under the chairmanship of Dr. Jassem Abdul Aziz Hammadi, the technical agent of the Ministry of Environment of Iraq, and with the membership of representatives of all other concerned Iraqi ministries. The Ministerial Committee held several regular monthly meetings and achieved positive results.

2- The approval of the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in Iraq was granted to develop an Iraqi national center to manage the file of risk reduction of accidents and disasters. The committee is currently working intensively to
complete all the prerequisites for the development of the centre and provide the efficient staff necessary to manage it effectively.

3 - The Ministerial Executive Committee of the Strategy has previously organized awareness seminars for all Iraqi state institutions in order to explain the basic content of the Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and to spread the culture for all as well as to identify the risks resulting from disasters and ways to overcome them and to work to recover from them.

4 - A specialized technical team of experts was formed and tasked with defining accurate definitions and classifications of accidents and disasters (floods / earthquakes / volcanoes / desertification and drought / famine / collapse of dams, landslides, etc.). Accidents (traffic accidents, Sports stadiums and other)

5- The International Environment Information Section of the Iraqi Ministry of the Environment has been assigned to work and print a comprehensive guide that includes details of addresses, means of communication for all Iraqi State institutions, governmental organizations and civil society organizations for securing necessary and urgent communications for the purpose of reducing the risk of accidents and disasters.

7- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Iraqi Ministry of Planning-International Cooperation Department have been approached by the Executive Ministerial Committee for the purpose of communicating with the relevant international organizations in the field disaster risk reduction and ensuring

7- The visions of all State institutions on plans to confront accidents and disasters and ways to protect the cultural and historical heritage of Iraq are being consolidated to prepare a comprehensive national plan and assign roles to these institutions to play their role in reducing the risk of accidents and disasters.

8- Iraq has been able to achieve the final victory and defeat terrorism which has caused serious damage to Iraqi infrastructure. Between 2014 and 2016. The cost of these damages amounted to 90 trillion Iraqi dinars, equivalent to 75 billion US dollars. Iraq has made great sacrifices with its martyrs and wounded in defence of the world and the Holy Land. The most areas affected by the terrorist acts are the provinces of (Nineveh / Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, and Baghdad,

The most important challenges facing Iraq in the field of reconstruction in Iraq are summarized in the following points:

First: insufficient grants and financial assistance to the donor countries approved at the Kuwait Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq in the implementation of reconstruction programs for the areas that have been
subjected to blind terrorism to bring back life to the infrastructure that has been exposed to these acts of terrorism; and to ensure the return of the displaced to their original areas of residence.

Second: The need for international support for the Iraqi government's plans to combat administrative and financial corruption and achieve security and stability in all parts of Iraq. This includes enabling it to find a safe and encouraging investment environment to attract capital and companies for implementing reconstruction projects for the affected areas.

Third: The Iraqi Government and the Iraqi people thank all the countries of the world that have contributed to support Iraq eradicating terrorism, represented by the support of the countries of the international coalition, the friendly African countries and the Arab countries.

at the end

We thank the Iraqi government and people for the Tunisian government and the Tunisian people for their hospitality and hosting this great event. We also thank the organizers, African and Arab countries and international organizations participating in the platform. We wish every success with the platform adopting serious recommendations that are met by implementation on the ground. We also wish to continue such meetings in the future which outline a road map to participating countries for the purpose of making their plans successful to reduce the risk of accidents and disasters.

Peace, mercy and blessings of God