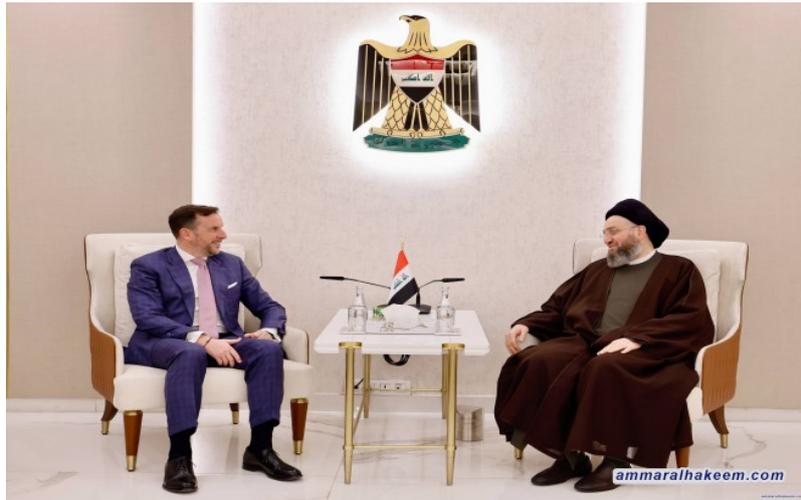


## Sayyid Al-Hakeem Affirms Expertise Exchange, Cooperation Enhancement with Italy



His Eminence Sayyid Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance, held a meeting on Thursday evening, 29 January 2026, with His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Italy to Iraq, Niccolò Fontana, where they discussed Iraq–Italy relations and practical ways to enhance cooperation between Baghdad and Rome in line with the shared interests of both nations and their peoples.

H.E. underlined the value of exchanging expertise and experiences between the institutions of the two countries across various sectors, affirming that Iraq remains open to cooperation with all parties while safeguarding its sovereignty and the interests of its people.

H.E. explained that Iraq has moved beyond major security, political, and social challenges, and is currently facing economic pressures due to the drop in oil prices, noting that these challenges can be addressed through effective planning and a collective commitment to the national interest.

H.E. also stressed the importance of de-escalation and maintaining regional stability, emphasizing dialogue and consultation as the best path to resolving outstanding issues.