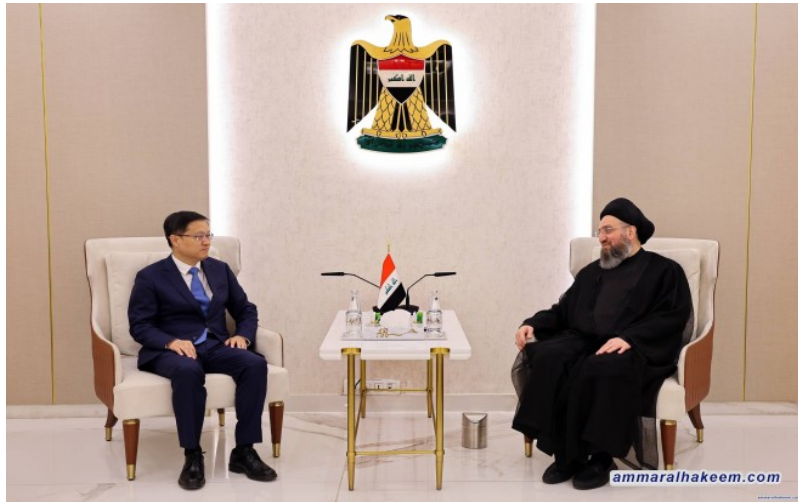


Sayyid Al-Hakeem Affirms China Partnership Importance, Calls to De-escalate Region



His Eminence Sayyid Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance, received at his office in Baghdad His Excellency the new Chinese Ambassador to Iraq, Mr. Xiang Bo, and discussed with him bilateral relations between the two countries, as well as regional developments and their impact on regional and international peace and stability, renewing his support for the government in its reform path and its fight against corruption.

H.E. affirmed Iraq's openness to its regional and international surroundings, noting that Iraq seeks to be a bridge for communication between nations, not an arena for settling scores, and stressed the importance of China to Iraq given its great economic, industrial, and technological capabilities.

Sayyid Al-Hakeem renewed his call for de-escalation in the region, calling on major powers to play their role in restoring stability, and to work toward resolving issues through dialogue and mutual understanding.