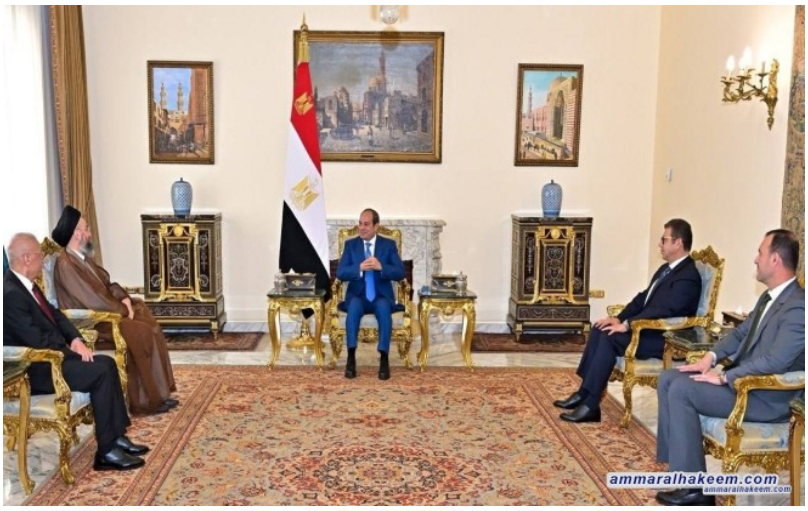
Sayyid Al-Hakeem, President Al-Sisi Discuss Ways to Strengthen Iraq-Egypt Relations



His Eminence Sayyid Ammar Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance, met with His Excellency Mr. Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in a visit that addressed bilateral relations between the two countries and regional and international developments.

During the meeting, H.E. affirmed the depth of the relations between Iraq and Egypt, expressing satisfaction with the upward trajectory they have witnessed recently in various fields, and voicing hope for further strengthening them within a framework of strategic integration between the two brotherly countries.

H.E. explained to the Egyptian President that Iraq is approaching a sovereign milestone represented by the end of the mission of the International Coalition to Combat ISIS at the end of this month of September, affirming the determination of the political forces to support the Iraqi government, led by Prime Minister Ali Al-Zaidi, in addressing the problem of weapons outside the framework of the state. H.E. noted that the Iraqi economy is capable of overcoming the current crisis resulting from regional tensions, and that Iraq is moving at a steady pace toward activating a diversified economic system that fulfills the aspirations of its people and provides the necessary backing for development.

At the regional level, H.E. stressed the need to avoid the dangerous escalatory steps witnessed in the region during the current year, affirming that the language of violence and weapons will not produce sustainable solutions but will leave negative effects on various aspects of life, as clearly seen in the current economic crises, particularly in the energy sector.

H.E. renewed support for Egypt's efforts in defending the rights of the Palestinian people and lifting injustice from them, commending the Egyptian initiative for rebuilding Gaza and hoping

that Arab efforts will come together to restore hope to the Arab peoples who are suffering in a number of countries. H.E. affirmed that the Arabs share a common destiny, and that their solidarity is the only way out of the state of tension the world is going through.