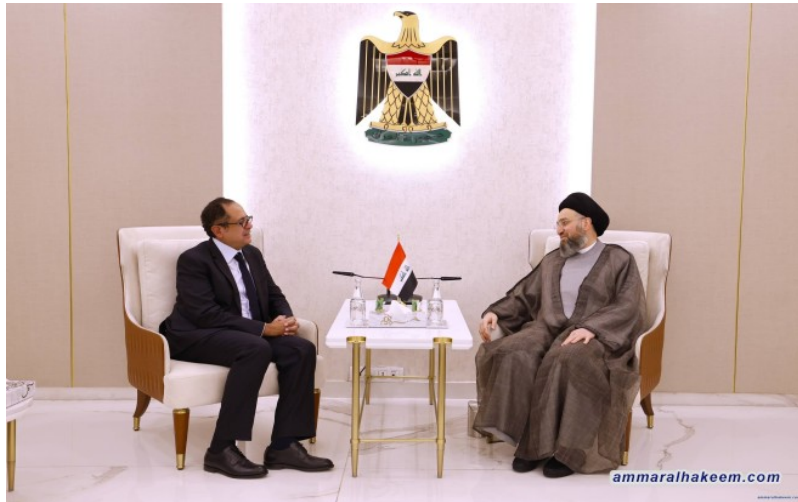


Sayyid Al-Hakeem: Iraq Economically Harmed by Regional Escalation, Regional Stability Necessary for All



His Eminence Sayyid Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance, received at his office in Baghdad the Egyptian Ambassador to Iraq, His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Khafaga, and discussed with him bilateral relations between the two countries and the two brotherly peoples, the challenges facing the region, as well as the challenges facing Iraq in the current phase. H.E. stressed the importance of a country the size of Egypt within the Arab and Islamic system, given its standing and civilizational and cultural legacy, calling for making the most of the commonalities between the two countries in a manner that serves shared interests and the legitimate causes of both countries, and stressing the importance of benefiting from Egypt's experience in reconstruction and rebuilding.

H.E. affirmed the need to restore stability in the region and to halt the escalation and replace it with dialogue and understanding, pointing to the damage Iraq has sustained as a result of this escalation, in terms of the decline in oil production and exports, which represent the largest share of Iraqi revenues, and noting the importance of diversifying the economy and the outlets for exporting oil through the Red Sea and the Mediterranean.

H.E. also pointed to the importance of confining weapons to the hands of the state according to Iraqi timelines and mechanisms, given that this file is an Iraqi demand and a constitutional reality, commending the efforts and sacrifices made in confronting terrorism, sacrifices made in confronting terrorism and restoring the land and the state.