Sayyid Al-Hakeem on International Day of Democracy: Democracy Is Our National Choice and Shared Responsibility

Sayyid Ammar Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers Alliance, affirmed in his address during the International Day of Democracy celebration that democracy is an authentic Iraqi national choice—not an imported model—but the outcome of great sacrifices made by the Iraqi people through decades of struggle against tyranny and dictatorship.

His Eminence explained that Iraq has faced complex and profound challenges on its democratic path, including political sectarianism, corruption, weak institutions, and external interference. H.E. stressed that overcoming these obstacles requires serious review and a continued commitment to reform.

H.E. outlined three fundamental pillars of democracy:

Political legitimacy through fair elections that reflect the genuine will of the people.

Active citizenship that places loyalty to the homeland above all sub-identities.

Strong, transparent institutions that guarantee separation of powers, justice, and protection of rights.

H.E. emphasized that youth, women, intellectual elites, and civil society are true partners in the state-building project and essential pillars in entrenching a culture of dialogue and national partnership. H.E. noted that democracy is not a final station or empty slogans but a continuous process of development and reform requiring responsible practice, collective awareness, and genuine adherence to the principles of a just state.

H.E. further underscored that building trust between citizens and the state and safeguarding human rights are the two essential foundations for consolidating and strengthening the democratic experience.

In conclusion, H.E. affirmed that Iraq, with its deep civilizational heritage, is capable of becoming a democratic beacon in the region and a model of reform and justice. H.E. also honored Iraq’s martyrs, who embodied the true meaning of national unity and sacrificed their lives for freedom and dignity, forming the solid foundation for building a just democratic state for all Iraqis.