



Att: Ms. Areej Al-Mukh
Permanent Delegation of Iraq to UNESCO
Maison de l'UNESCO
Bureau M6.37 - M6.42 1
rue Miollis 75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

Monday, 12 September 2022

RE: MAKHOUL DAM

[via. e-mail: dl.iraq@unesco-delegations.org]

Dear Ms. Al-Mukh,

In January 2021, the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources (hereinafter the "Ministry") commenced the construction of a dam in the Saladin Governorate as a response to the country's ongoing climate emergency. Known as the Makhoul Dam, this project is geographically situated on the Tigris River, about 30 kilometres northwest of the city of Baiji and shall extend to the city of Sherqat.

According to an investigative report, the Makhoul Dam poses a host of cultural, environmental, and social concerns. For one, it has been reported that the Ministry has neither consulted the Iraqi Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities or any other stakeholders on how the dam shall impact the environment as well as archaeological sites in the region, namely the Assyrian city of Ashur, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

We request that the Permanent Delegation of Iraq to UNESCO seek an urgent update from the Ministry on how it plans to address these deepening concerns as well as what steps it is taking to protect heritage sites in the region.

Thank you.

Regards,

Board of Directors,
ACSYA Inc.