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**IRAQ, TÜRKİYE DISCUSS ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION AND DECLINING WATER RELEASES**

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Iraqi News Agency (12 August 2025)

Minister of Environment Halo Al-Askari discussed with a Turkish delegation, headed by Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change Fatma Varank, on Tuesday, enhancing environmental cooperation and the challenges of declining water releases.

Al-Askari stressed that "Iraq faces severe environmental challenges as a result of declining water releases and climate change, which requires effective regional partnerships and ongoing understandings with neighboring countries, most notably Türkiye," according to a statement from the Ministry of Environment received by the Iraqi News Agency - INA.

A bilateral meeting was held between the Iraqi delegation, headed by the Minister of Environment, on the sidelines of international negotiations in Geneva to reduce plastic pollution. "The meeting was attended by Iraq's Ambassador to the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, Abdul Karim Hashim, and several experts and diplomats from the Ministries of Environment, Water Resources, and Foreign Affairs. The Turkish delegation, headed by Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change Fatma Varank, was also attended by Turkish Ambassador to Geneva, Burak Akçapar, along with officials and experts from both sides."

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