

1976-2016



Uniting against Poverty

Für Wien...  
a lasting  
“thank you”

June 2, 2016

Vienna International Center  
Wagramer Strasse 5  
1220 Vienna, Austria



### VISION

To aspire to a world where Sustainable Development, centered on human capacity-building, is a reality for all.

### MISSION

To foster South-South Partnership with fellow developing countries worldwide with the aim of eradicating poverty.

## Background of OFID

3100 B.C.	2800 B.C.	2500 B.C.	1800 B.C.	700 B.C.

OFID (the OPEC Fund for International Development) is the development finance institution established by the Member States of OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) in 1976 as a collective channel of aid to the developing countries. OFID works in cooperation with partner developing countries and the international donor community to stimulate economic growth and alleviate poverty in all disadvantaged regions of the world. It does this by providing financing to build essential infrastructure, strengthen social services delivery and promote capacity-building, productivity, competitiveness and trade. OFID's work is people-centered, focusing on projects that meet basic needs—such as food, energy, clean water and sanitation, healthcare and education—with the aim of encouraging self-reliance and inspiring hope for the future.

### 2016: A special year

In celebrating its 40th anniversary, OFID acknowledges the pivotal role played by its Member Countries, whose unflagging support has made the institution what it is today. Equally important has been the generosity of the City of Vienna and the Republic of Austria in providing a stable, welcoming environment for OFID to carry out its noble mission.

After decades of following the lead of others, the OFID of 2016 is a true development pioneer. It is also a partner of choice, both in the eyes of its peers and those of the countries it works with. Considering the institution's modest size, this is a remarkable achievement.

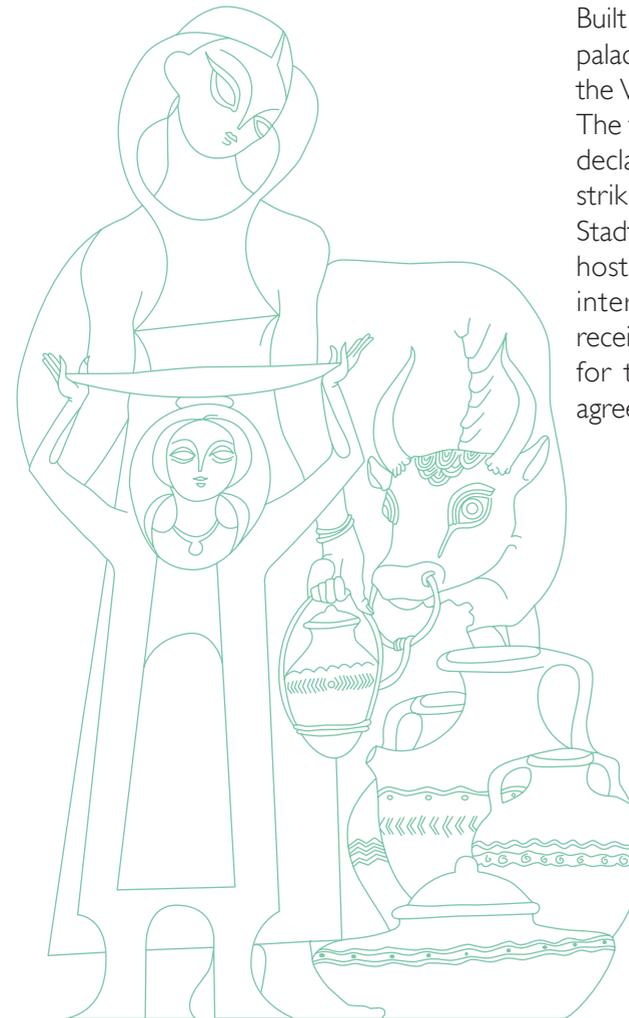


## OFID and Vienna



This monument is presented as a gift to the City of Vienna in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of OFID in 2016. The Austrian capital has hosted OFID since the institution's inception in 1976. From its Vienna base, OFID has reached out to 134 countries through support to almost 3,500 development operations.

The Headquarters agreement between Austria and OFID was signed on April 21, 1981. The headquarters' building was built between 1864 and 1868 to serve as a residential palace of the Austrian Archduke Wilhelm Franz Karl, who was Grand and German Master of the Order of the Teutonic Knights. It remains one of the most significant and impressive of all palaces on Vienna's famous *Ringstrasse*.



Built in the neo-renaissance style, the palace is still often referred to, among the Viennese, as *Palais Deutschmeister*. The five-story building, which has been declared a national monument, has a striking façade overlooking Vienna's Stadtpark. At its headquarters, OFID hosts a number of conferences and international meetings, as well as receiving various government ministers for the signature of its operational agreements on a regular basis.

Sumer was the first ancient urban civilization in the historical region of southern Mesopotamia, modern-day southern Iraq, during the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze ages, and arguably the first civilization in the world.

# The Monument



## Inspiration: The civilization of Sumer

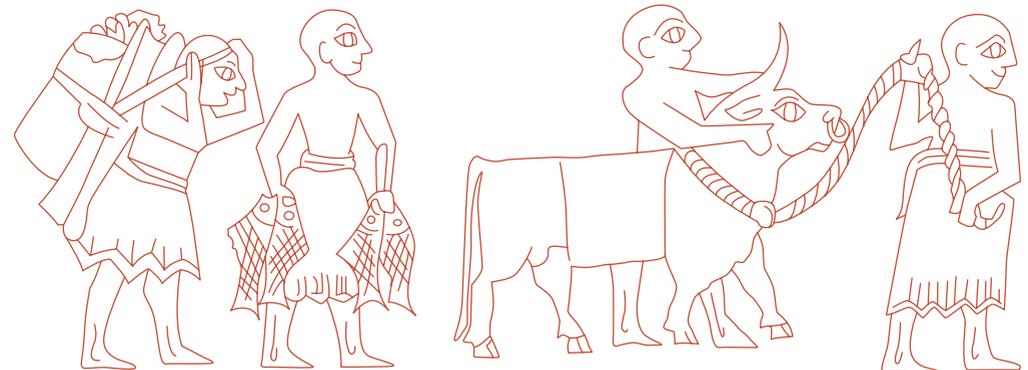
The Sumerian city-states rose to power during the prehistoric Ubaid and Uruk periods. Sumerian written history reaches back to the 27th century BC and before, but the historical record remains obscure until the Early Dynastic III period, around the 23rd century BC, when a now deciphered syllabary writing system was developed, which has allowed archaeologists to read contemporary records and inscriptions.

## The development link

After 1900 BC, when the Amorites conquered all of Mesopotamia, the Sumerians lost their separate identity, but they bequeathed their culture to their Semitic successors, and they left the world a number of technological and cultural contributions, including the first wheeled vehicles and potter's wheels; the first system of writing, cuneiform; the first codes of law; and the first city-states. Several original Sumerian scripts and drawings are placed to show the original developmental efforts by humankind. With the invention of reading and writing, cultural development prospered and such human skills were pivotal for generations to come.

## About the artist

Suhail Al-Hindawi was born in Iraq in 1948. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, Sculpture from Baghdad University in 1970. He lectured at the Fine Arts Institute in Baghdad and was a member of the Iraqi Arts Association as well as a member of the International Union of Arts. He has received numerous awards and recognitions, such as the Iraqi Olympic Organization statue, and has produced various sculptures and monuments worldwide.



# Front View



**Text:**  
description of the beginning of civilization

**Cuneiform:**  
early stages of notation leading to the invention of writing

**Agriculture:**  
first economic good

**Water:**  
the emergence of life

**Sun:**  
symbol of flourishing life

**Family:**  
economic development through agriculture and some major industries

**Imprints:**  
initial images mimicking pictography

**Plaques:**  
in German and English dedicated to the City of Vienna

# Back View



**Logo:**  
OFID logo and slogan

**12 Rivers:**  
symbol of giving

**17 Icons:**  
UN permanent icons under OFID umbrella

Height: 5.2m  
Body: Bronze  
Base: Granite

**“With the invention  
of writing begins the  
recorded history  
of Mankind.”**

André Parrot  
Archaeologist specializing  
in the ancient Near East  
(1901-1980)

## The origin of written language



The Sumerian language is one of the earliest known written languages. The “proto-literate” period of Sumerian writing spans from around 3300 to 3000 BC. In its initial phases, writing was pictographic, with icons and images derived from everyday life. Humans used depictions of common objects from their surroundings, including people and shelter, livestock and agriculture, tools, weaponry and machinery.

The Sumerians were the first to display their ingenuity. With use of a stylus, the Sumerians formulated icons and symbols as pictorial representations of words. In what came to be known as Cuneiform script, they illustrated essential objects and meanings with a few sound strokes on a clay tablet.

The invention of written language around 3200 BC was a key turning point for all mankind. This was the beginning of modern history, as with written language the Sumerians were able to document events. Therefore, the time before this period is known as the Prehistoric era.

The first ever documented written script is placed on the OFID monument, and tells a tale between two Sumerian kings:

*Enmerkar king of Uruk (the lord of Kulaba, another name of the city) wanted to send a message to his adversary, the lord of the city of Aratta, and gave lengthy instructions to a messenger. However, the messenger was unable to repeat it, as the matter was too weighty. The lord of Kulaba flattened a lump of clay and impressed his words into it just as it were a seal. Up to this time no one had recorded words on clay.*

OFID worked closely with Professor Michael Jursa, head of the Institute for Oriental Studies at the University of Vienna. He is a professor of Assyriology and coordinator of the “Nationalen Forschungsnetzwerks (NFN) Imperium and Officium”. Additionally he published work on Comparative Studies in Ancient Bureaucracy and The Language of Power I: Official Epistolography in Babylonia in the First Millennium BC. His research interests include Assyriology, economic history, history of the ancient Near East, history of mentality, microhistory, and medieval Italy.

His principal research interests are: ancient Near Eastern social and economic history, the history of mentalities, the history of bureaucracy, the economic history of the ancient world in general in the first millennium BC.

There are a few hundred individuals globally who specialize in either Sumerian culture, language, archaeology or history. OFID is honored to have worked on this project with Austrian expert Professor Jursa.

In cooperation with all stakeholders, including the energy industry, OFID takes a nexus approach to energy poverty, addressing it alongside food and water security. This nexus forms the central pillar of OFID's Strategic Planning.

# Sustainable Development Goals



## Energy: The catalyst for Agenda 2030

After decades of languishing on the fringes of development, the energy sector has finally gained the recognition it deserves. Embedded as SDG7 in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, access to modern energy services is now universally accepted as one of the most powerful catalysts for both human and economic advancement. Without energy, it is impossible to provide healthcare and education, end hunger, supply clean water or, indeed, eradicate poverty. The enabling power of energy access is underlined by its direct links to all other 17 SDGs.

OFID has assumed a lead role in global energy poverty alleviation efforts, following a direct mandate from its Member Countries in 2007. Working with like-minded partners, including the UN SE4ALL initiative, OFID was instrumental in securing an explicit goal for energy in Agenda 2030. The institution is committed to using all resources at its disposal and pursuing all viable solutions in a bid to make modern energy universally available. The strategic framework for these activities is OFID's eight year-old Energy for the Poor Initiative, which is funded through a revolving endowment of US\$1bn, a sum pledged by the institution's supreme body, the Ministerial Council, in its June 2012 Declaration on Energy Poverty.





Uniting against Poverty

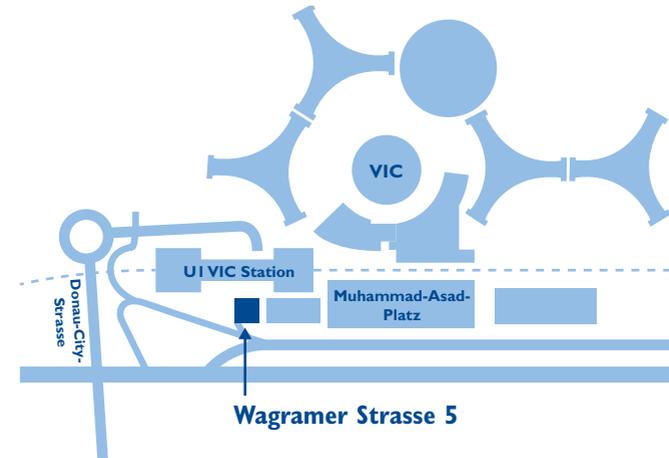
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Photo: Rupert Steiner

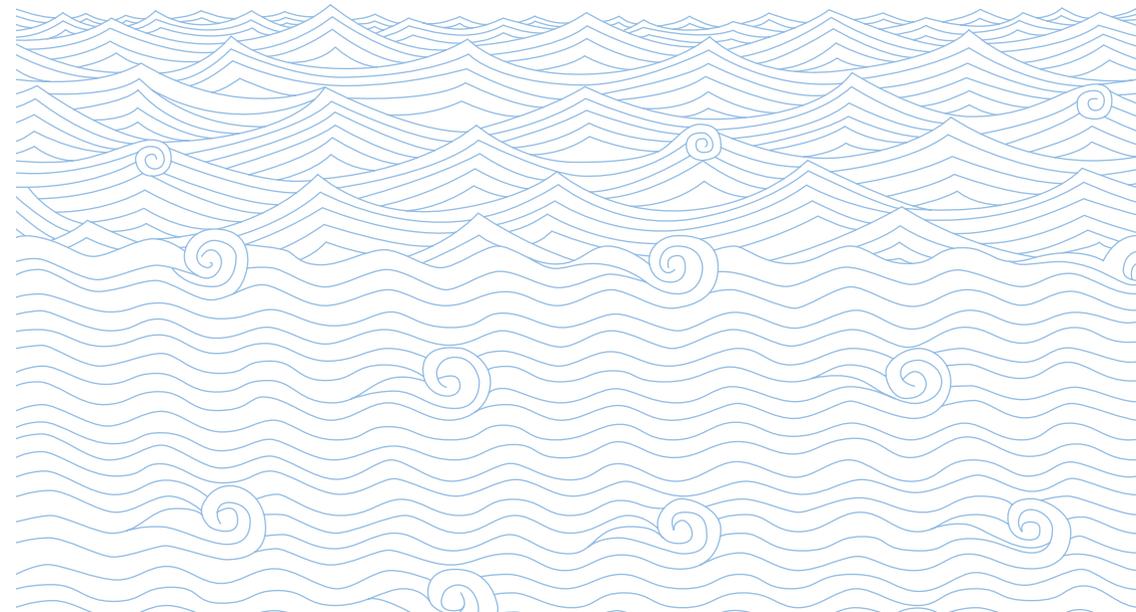


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