



AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail UN.Geneva@dfat.gov.au

Chemin des Fins 2, Petit Saconnex, 1211 Geneva 19 Ph +41 22 799 9100 Fax +41 22 799 9175 www.geneva.mission.gov.au

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 20th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Iraq

Statement by Australia

64

Australia commends Iraq's achievements in the face of considerable challenges, including ongoing atrocities committed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and others. Achievements include successful democratic elections in April and commencement of the Independent High Commission for Human Rights. **Australia recommends Iraq continue to work with the international community to address human rights issues set out in the 21st UNAMI Interim Human Rights report of 19 August 2014.**

Australia remains concerned about human rights issues in Iraq – particularly abuses against civilians by terrorists, militias and others. Many have targeted minorities and other vulnerable groups, including women and girls. **Australia recommends Iraq ensure all reports of human rights abuses, including those against ethnic and religious minorities, women and girls, are fully investigated and prosecuted.**

Australia is deeply concerned by Iraq's increasing recourse to the death penalty. **Australia recommends that Iraq establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.**

The Australian Government will continue to work with Iraq to help it address human rights challenges.