

UPR –IRAQ – 3 November 2014

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STATEMENT by BULGARIA

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Bulgaria welcomes the distinguished delegation of Iraq.

We take positive note of the national action taken by the Iraqi government to develop its institutional structures. Bulgaria commend the fact that since the last review the Iraqi authorities are working steadily towards improving and strengthening the human rights in the country by establishing The High Commission for Human Rights and the adoption of the National Human Rights Plan in 2011.

Bulgaria notes with appreciation the Adoption of the National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women in 2013 and the progress achieved in the empowerment of women at the political level and in promoting their right to hold public office.

We share, however, the concern by CEDAW about the situation of women held in detention facilities, particularly those sentenced to death, the arbitrary detention of women, and the torture, sexual violence and overcrowding in prisons.

Bulgaria expresses serious concern regarding the information of UNAMI (UN Assistance Mission for Iraq) and the OHCHR about the situation of children who have been recruited into armed conflict.

In this line Bulgaria recommends Iraq to ratify the Convention against Torture (and its Optional Protocol).

Finally, Bulgaria further recommends that Iraq ratifies the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Thank you!