

UPR20 – IRAQ

STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

*The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Iraq and thanks for its national report and today's opening statement. We have the following **recommendations**:*

First, we would like to **recommend** to the Government of Iraq to take further measures to prevent torture including acceding to the Optional Protocol to CAT (Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or degrading Treatment or Punishment) and establishing a national preventive mechanism accordingly.

Second, we **recommend** Iraq to strengthen its criminal investigation and prosecuting capacities in order to prevent and eliminate arbitrary detention and extrajudicial killings.

Third, we **recommend** paying special attention to the situation of women and to improve their access to public services, education and justice and to consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women).

Finally, the Czech Republic **recommends** Iraq to ensure due protection of rights of its diverse religious, national or ethnic and linguistic minority groups threatened by the increased violence and tensions and to prevent their discrimination.

I thank you.

3 November 2014