

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

GENEVA

The 34th Session of the UPR Working Group <*Check against delivery*>

Review of Iraq

Geneva, 11 November 2019

**Statement of the Republic of Korea**

Thank you, Madam Vice-president.

The Republic of Korea acknowledges Iraq’s ongoing efforts to strengthen its national human rights framework and enhance its cooperation with international mechanisms. We also commend Iraq on taking measures to protect and assist displaced persons in the country and hope that the upcoming visit of the Special Rapporteur on IDPs will serve as an opportunity to evaluate the progress and explore the way forward.

However, we are also deeply concerned about recent reports of excessive use of force and violence against protestors, which has caused numerous deaths and injuries of civilians across the country.

In this regard, we would like to present the following recommendations:

1. Conduct prompt, independent and effective investigations into the excessive use of force against protestors in the October demonstrations and bring perpetrators to justice, while taking effective measures to prevent the recurrence of such violence, particularly by enhancing human rights training for law enforcement officials; and
2. Make continued efforts to strengthen the rule of law and ensure independent and impartial administration of justice by combating corruption and addressing the issue of impunity.

Thank you, Vice-president. /END/