

**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**

**34th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Iraq– 11th November 2019**

Sri Lanka warmly welcomes the delegation of Iraq and appreciates the detailed presentation made.

Sri Lanka notes that Iraq has ratified eight major international human rights instruments. Sri Lanka welcomes Iraq’s adoption of several national strategies and related plans during the period covered by the report which include; A poverty reduction strategy for 2018–2022, a humanitarian response plan to provide relief, shelter and resettlement for displaced families in 2018 and a nutrition and food safety strategy for 2018–2022.

Sri Lanka further notes the efforts undertaken by Iraq to develop a human rights institutional framework, including the establishment of the Women’s Empowerment Division of the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, the creation of the human rights office in the Advisory Panel of the Office of the Prime Minister and the implementation of a human rights education strategy in Iraqi universities, which is incorporating human rights principles into academic courses.

It is encouraging that Iraq is working to improve its domestic legislation and bring it in line with its international obligations and a committee made up of retired judges from the Supreme Judicial Council has been brought together to review all legislation in this regard.

In a constructive spirit, Sri Lanka recommends that Iraq:

1. Continues to promote measures to protect and promote the rights of migrant workers in line with the relevant international instruments;
2. works towards improving its domestic legislation to bring them in line with its

international obligations and international standards;

1. Continues collaboration with national mine action authorities for comprehensive mine action operations to ensure the safe and sustainable living conditions for host communities and returnees.

We wish Iraq success in its UPR engagement.