**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

34th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Iraq***

11 November 2019

Mme Vice-President,

Bulgaria welcomes the high level Delegation of Iraq and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria acknowledges the ongoing efforts of the Government of Iraq to restore stability, advance national reconciliation, improve rule of law and reduce poverty in the country. We value the achievements of the Iraqi authorities in addressing the consequences of numerous serious crimes, and the demolition of civil infrastructure and historic monuments that have been perpetrated by the ISIL terrorist groups.

Bulgaria recognizes the legislative and institutional reforms that have been undertaken in the field of human rights in Iraq in conformity with its international obligations and the accepted recommendations of the Second UPR cycle.

We would like to encourage Iraqi authorities to adopt appropriate measures to prevent violence and avoid excessive use of force against those individuals who exercise their right to peaceful assembly.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Take further steps to promote women’s full and meaningful participation in the national reconciliation and the post conflict reconstruction.
2. Continue efforts to provide educational opportunities for everyone and to increase rates of enrolment of children to all levels of education.
3. Update legislation and policies on rehabilitation, restoration and protection of the cultural heritage.

We wish the Delegation of Iraq a successful review!

Thank you, Mme Vice-President!