**UPR Working Group – Review of Iraq**

**Statement by Austria**

November 2019

Austria welcomes H.E. Mr. Farooq Ameen Othman and the delegation of Iraq and thanks for the submission of their national report.

We commend Iraq’s efforts to address corruption and strengthen state institutions.

However, we are deeply concerned about recent reports of violations of the right to life, including deliberate killings of unarmed protesters and excessive use of force during the on-going demonstrations.

While supporting the prosecution of members of Da’esh and the work of UNITAD, we urge Iraq to comply with international human rights standards at every step.

Collective punishment of individuals with perceived ties to Da’esh, including the denial of identification documents for their family members, remains a serious concern and puts women and children in extremely vulnerable situations. We are also seriously concerned by deficiencies in the judicial sector with regard to due process and fair trial standards, especially by convictions based on so-called confessions obtained under torture.

We recognize Iraq’s efforts to cope with a renewed influx of refugees from Syria in addition to the vast humanitarian challenges Iraq faces.

We recommend:

* + Halt the practice of arbitrary confiscation or non-issuance of identity documents of individuals in IDP camps and ensure that they can voluntarily and safely return to their places of origin or habitual residence;
	+ Provide guarantees for the protection of women and children during conflict, end impunity and take measures to end discrimination faced by displaced women, survivors and returnees, including those with perceived ties to Da’esh;
	+ Strengthen the protection of journalists by inter alia amending Act n°21 of 2011 accordingly;
	+ Enact legislation to protect ethnic and religious minorities;
	+ Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC.