**UPR of the Republic of Iraq**

**Statement by the Republic of Poland**

11th of November 2019, Geneva, 14.30 hrs

*Mr. President,*

Poland would like to thank the delegation of the Republic of Iraq for its national report and for participation in the third UPR.

Acting in tremendously difficult political, socioeconomic and security circumstances, the Government of Iraq and Iraqi regional authorities pursue ambitious agenda of providing public safety, services and improving protection of human rights.

Given the progress achieved by Iraq in this field in recent years, Poland is concerned by number of deaths during the recent demonstrations in Iraq. We support a full inquiry of these tragic events by the Iraqi authorities.

Polish delegation would like to present the following recommendations to the Government of Iraq:

* **Continue efforts and undertake concrete measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination and persecution on the grounds of religion or belief.**
* **Continue efforts in implementing operational frameworks focusing on protecting women and children from violence and establish clear, achievable objectives to enhance the representation and employment of women in governance.**
* **Consider accession of Iraq to the Rome Statute of the ICC of 1998 and the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**
* **Introduce a moratorium on the death penalty in order to abolish the capital punishment and which would allow Iraq to become a party to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**

*I* *thank you.*