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

**Review of Iraq**

**11 November 2019**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Christopher Grima,**

**Permanent Representative**

Thank you, Madam Vice-President.

Malta welcomes the delegation of Iraq and thanks it for the presentation of its national report. Malta is fully aware of the particular challenges that the Government of Iraq faces and, in this context, welcomes the progress it has made since its second review cycle. We are closely following the ongoing protests in Iraq and urge restraint from all parties to avoid further injuries and loss of lives.

We would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of Iraq:

1. Continue with the drafting of legislation aimed at preventing torture and curbing enforced disappearances with the aim of bringing it in line with international obligations;
2. Take further steps to ensure that persons deprived of their liberty are held in supervised places of detention, have access to their families and lawyers, and inform the latter of their fate, whereabouts and legal status;
3. Take steps to investigate and end violence against, and killings of, LGBTI persons.

We wish the delegation of Iraq a successful review.

Thank you.