**UPR 34th Session**

**(Geneva, 4-15 Nov 2019)**

**Review of Iraq**

**Statement by Greece**

Thank you Mr President.

Greece welcomes the delegation of Iraq to the UPR. We recognize the important challenges the country has had to face since its last review, and appreciate that the 2018 elections generally met international standards of free and fair elections. We are, however, concerned by the reported attacks by armed entities against demonstrators, which undermine the right to peaceful assembly and the expression of legitimate demands. We urge the Iraqi Government to take steps to prevent further loss of life and uphold the right to freedom of assembly.

**Greece recommends that Iraq:**

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW
2. Uphold and protect the rights to freedom of expression and assembly as guaranteed in Iraq’s Constitution and in line with its international commitments, and promptly investigate human rights violations against protesters.
3. Investigate killings, harassment and violence against journalists and hold perpetrators accountable
4. Establish a moratorium on executions in view of abolishing the death penalty

Greece wishes the Delegation of Iraq success in implementing the recommendations received today.

I thank you.