

Speaker: Thank you, Chair. Iraq welcomes the Special Rapporteur on Minority Rights and we congratulate Mr. Daniel Abwa, elected as President for this session and we wish him all success.

Mr. Chair, Iraq is a plurinational state with multiple religions and cultures and with Iraqi laws that protect the rights of all categories of the Iraqi people. Our constitution insists on the equal footing of treatment of all Iraqis and the various legal tools that go with the constitution work towards creating guarantees for all the components of the Iraqi constituency. The Elections Law Number 9 of 2020 has granted the 9 seats for the Christians and Mandaean and Kurds and Feylis, so that they can have their fair share of representation in national lists and the Cabinet in Iraq has issued Decision 92 of 2014 to protect the Yezidis and Turkmen and the Christians at the hands of the terrorist group Daesh, including the crime of genocide. Then there is the decision of 8/20/21 which seeks to give remedy to the Yezidi survivors and to ensure their restitution because they've been victims of the terrorist group Daesh and this is the first law of its kind that protects the survivors of sex crimes in Iraq and we have stipulated the 3rd of August as a national day to raise awareness about that scourge. And we have also the law Number 7 on the official languages which seeks to protect the diversity of languages in Iraq. Then we've also issued Law 58 of 2018, which establishes the Endowments Office for the various religions and faiths in Iraq, including Christianity and [Sabae] faiths in such a way as to ensure their rights and their freedom of worship in Iraq as per the Constitution. And we keep working for the protection of the diversity of all the components of Iraq, considering them on the same footing as all other Iraqis. Thank you.