

Thank you, Mr President.

I am Sahir Mirza from the Yazidi minority and President of the Peace Organisation for Supporting Iraqi Minorities.

Mr President, thirty years have passed since the adoption of the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Individuals Belonging to Minorities and there remains numerous minorities across the globe suffering violations against their rights. Particularly, Iraqi minorities that are facing difficult circumstances, such as, the non-recognition of the Kakai, Zoroastrian, and Baha'i religious minorities; violations against the rights of others, such as the expulsion of Christians; as well as the killing, kidnapping, and expulsion of the Yazidi minority. Furthermore, the Iraqi state has refused to recognise the genocide perpetrated against the Yazidis on the 3rd of August 2014.

Mr President, eight years have passed and 80% of Yazidis are displaced in their country of origin and have not returned to their areas, despite the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration returning all other displaced peoples to their areas of

residence, except for the members of the Yazidi minority. Furthermore, the victims of the genocide and those harmed by Daesh have not been compensated to date. According to official statistics, there are still over 2,500 Yazidis kidnapped by Daesh and the Iraqi government has done nothing to rescue them to date.

There are now thousands of Yazidi refugees in countries such as Turkey and Greece waiting to emigrate to countries that will protect their rights. Therefore, we ask from the countries accepting refugees to facilitate these people, who have fled their native countries for numerous reasons, and to welcome them so that these refugees can settle and live in safety and peace. We request that the United Nations intervenes to identify appropriate solutions to the dire situation facing the Yazidi minority.

Thank you.