

Barzani Charity Foundation/BCF

Good morning Madame Chair, dear Delegate.

Iraq is one of the few countries in the region where the society is very diverse, and a minority group, which was once the majority in the country are playing the most insignificant role and their contributions are vital to the country's future. However, since the removal of the previous regime, the minority group has come under enormous attack, including massacre, persecution, and ethnic cleansing, mostly by extremist groups, such as ISIS and other radical organizations. The Iraqi authorities and other stakeholders must understand that peace and stability are not achieved through force and marginalization. But through equal rights and true political representation and economic opportunities. The post-ISIS conflict in Iraq, the Kurdistan regional government views minorities not as the beneficiaries of protection, but rather as the core architects of the new Iraq, which minority groups are the bedrock of the foundation of the governmental and social institutions, which democracy, accountability, and rule of law is the key of the governance. The United Nations and the international community should promote those lessons and approach conducted by the Kurdistan regional government for the protection of minorities, where the minority groups do not only feel protected, but where their voice and views are represented too. This exemplary approach should be adapted into the global policy framework in linking minority inclusion into the sustainable development goals. Today Iraq is more stable and secure, the economy is doing well, however, the state of Iraq and UN must recognize that Iraq cannot fully recover from the atrocities committed against the minorities, in particular the Yazidis, without implementation of restorative justice and adequate compensation to the families of the victims [cut off].