

27th Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 2 – Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Statement by the Czech Republic

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic supports the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. High Commissioner,

We wish to congratulate you on your appointment into the office. We praised your predecessor, Madam Navi Pillay, for her openness and courage to speak out against human rights violations and abuses of all kind, no matter how disturbing the truth was or how uncomfortable it was for us, representatives of States. Rest assured, Mr. High Commissioner, that the Czech Republic will fully support your efforts to conduct the same frank dialogue with States and with this Council. The office you have assumed is the world's principal force advancing human rights everywhere and for everyone. Its legitimacy stems from independence, impartiality, non-selectivity and the courage to employ fully these principles when defending human rights.

Mr. High Commissioner, we thank you for your update. We cannot but agree that crises are best addressed before they break out and before violence and culture of impunity spiral out of control. Prevention is crucial and the UN should strengthen its toolbox of preventative measures. The *Rights Up Front* agenda is a step in the right direction. Efforts aimed at promoting and reinforcing the rule of law, inclusive participation and democratic checks and balances should be at the core of this prevention toolbox. We concur with you, Mr. High Commissioner, that institutions without trust fail their purpose and that they must be underpinned by inclusive participation of people. Further, as you emphasized, the Sustainable Development Goals should also aim for freedom from fear. Sustainable Development Goals sidelining rights pertaining issues such as access to justice or political and public participation would not stand the test of time.

Mr. High Commissioner,

We are pleased to hear that you will place greater emphasis on implementation of recommendations made by the UPR, Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures and will deepen the dialogue with Member States. The Czech Republic stands ready to assist you in these efforts. Mr. High Commissioner, we wish you best of luck in discharging your mandate.

Thank you.