

**27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**  
**Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert**  
**on the CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Ms. Keita Bocoum**

**24<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Mr President,

The Czech Republic supports the statement delivered by the European Union.

We thank the Independent Expert for her oral report to the Council. We appreciate the cooperation of the transitional Government of the Central African Republic with Madame Keita Bocoum. The Czech Republic welcomes the intention of this Council to extend for one year the mandate of the Independent Expert which should, in our view, include also monitoring of the human rights situation in the country as violations and abuses on the ground continue.

We welcome the establishment of the new transitional Government in August 2014. Regrettably, the overall humanitarian and human rights situation, especially in regions, remains of concern. Situation of the most vulnerable groups such as women, children and internally displaced persons worries us. We are deeply concerned about use of rape and other forms of sexual violence. To duly investigate the above mentioned human rights violations and abuses and to end the climate of impunity, the international community should support the judicial system of Central African Republic which lacks capacities.

In the context of an operation to protect civilians and disarm the militias, the Czech Republic welcomes the deployment of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSCA) which should resolutely act to prevent women and children from physical violence. We hope that MINUSCA will show the civilian population that its deployment created a real difference in human rights situation on the ground.

During the June Council's session we expressed our concern about the safety of local and international non-governmental organizations and human rights activists. *We would like to hear what is the Independent Expert's assessment of the openness of the new Government to the cooperation with NGOs? How much the presence of international NGOs helps to improve the human rights situation?*

To conclude, we wish the Independent Expert, Madame Keita Bocoum, all the best in her challenging work.

Thank you, Mr President.