

**29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council, item 3**  
**Interactive Dialogue with SR on minority issues, Ms. Rita Izsak**  
15<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Madame Special Rapporteur, we thank for your timely report and its comprehensive set of recommendations. Let me now briefly sum up the latest developments demonstrating the attention the Government of the Czech Republic pays to Roma Inclusion. In February this year the Government adopted a comprehensive Strategy for Roma Integration till 2020. These are its main four goals:

- 1) To reverse by 2020 negative trends in education, employment, housing, health and social areas.
- 2) To restart and accelerate positive changes towards gradual elimination of the differences between the conditions of most of Roma population and majority population.
- 3) To effectively protect Roma persons against discrimination and violence.
- 4) To encourage development of the Roma culture, language and participation.

The Strategy pays special attention to Roma emancipation, identity formation and participation. In the field of education it sets specific objectives that include ensuring equal access of the Roma to quality education at all levels. This was projected also in the amendment of the Education Act. It now promotes inclusive education and sets conditions for the education of all pupils so that education can take place primarily in the mainstream with the help of adequate auxiliary measures to respond to educational needs of all pupils.

Madame Special Rapporteur, some of your recommendations are aimed also at conduct of political parties and their role in shaping public discourse, could you please share some examples of leadership and best practice in this crucial area? Thank you.

Thank you, Chair.