

**Annual Discussion on Integration of Gender Perspective throughout the work of the
Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms**

15 September 2015

Intervention by the Czech Republic

Mr. President, distinguished panellists,

The Czech Republic would like to thank the organizers for preparing this important event.

We consider gender balance in decision-making processes in all spheres of life an important indicator of gender equality and a crucial element of a truly democratic society. We support equal participation of women i.a. by having been the main sponsor during the past three years of the HRC resolution on equal participation in political and public affairs. The resolution recognizes the critical importance of ensuring the active participation of women, on equal terms with men, at all levels of decision-making, and the importance of overcoming obstacles and discrimination women face in this regard throughout the world.

Being well aware of the difficulties we are facing in this area on national level, I would like to bring one example of good practice used by women human rights NGOs in the Czech Republic and elsewhere, which is active creation of databases of women experts in different areas of public life and science. These databases represent an important tool for instance for the media to compose gender balanced panels for public discussions and they could be used by governments and the UN similarly.

We are looking forward to hearing from the panellists more ideas and examples on how to improve women's participation in the Council and its mechanisms.

Thank you.