

**Madam President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

**The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statements delivered by the EU and the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect.**

**As we already heard today, the Responsibility to Protect is based on three mutually supporting and non-sequential pillars of responsibility of States to protect their citizens, the shared responsibility of international community to provide States assistance in implementing that responsibility, or even take a decisive action where all other efforts fail. While large part of our discussions are focused on the third pillar, the essence of our efforts, as suggested by the Secretary General in his recent report, should be focused on the first two pillars which are based on prevention and international cooperation.**

**We are convinced that the work starts at the national level with ensuring full and equal participation of all. Whenever are people left voiceless, whenever people's voice is ignored or twisted, discontent and grievances grow. That is why the Czech Republic, as a member of the Human Rights Council, is a driving force behind the resolution on equal participation in political and public affairs. Furthermore, in his report, the Secretary General rightly stresses the need to include women in early warning as well as**

preventative measures. In this context, a thorough implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda becomes a matter of urgency.

The Human Rights Council is a body with a particularly strong potential for effective early action and early warning function. While the Universal Periodic Review and treaty bodies play a crucial part in assessing national risks and resilience, the Special Procedures mandate holders play an irreplaceable role in early warning and prevention of mass atrocities. The Czech Republic supports the efforts to strengthen the preventive role of the Council and its efficiency, which we believe will further elevate its role and credibility.

Last year marked the 70th anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. We would like to urge all states that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so. In the Czech Republic, we reflected the Convention in our legislation, which actually provides even stronger level of protection from genocide, by listing among the protected groups also “class, or other similar groups of people”.

We can all agree that impunity for the crime of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity encourages their reoccurrence. The states have the primary responsibility to investigate and prosecute crimes within their jurisdiction and such national efforts should be encouraged and assisted by all

**other Member States. On the international level, the International Criminal Court remains the most important institution in the battle to end impunity for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Czech Republic continues to support the International Criminal Court and other international criminal tribunals in their work and their role as a deterrent of atrocity crimes.**

**Finally, we would like to use this opportunity to welcome the inclusion of the Responsibility to Protect on the formal agenda of current session of the General Assembly and voice our hope that during the next 74<sup>th</sup> session, the Responsibility to Protect will finally receive a status of a standing item on the agenda of the General Assembly, a status it rightly deserves.**

**Thank you.**