

**Interactive dialogue with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Statement of the Czech Republic**

Thank you, Mr. President.

To start with, my country fully supports the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. President,

The update of the High Commissioner once again reminded us that the state of human rights around the world continue to be of utmost concern: the picture he drew is disquieting. Therefore, we must stand firm against all attempts to undermine respect for human rights and their universality. States should be made aware of their human rights obligations and commitments, and should be held accountable. In this regard, the role of High Commissioner and his Office is indispensable. We need an independent and impartial voice speaking openly for all victims of human rights abuse.

The unprecedented flow of irregular migrants and refugees to Europe represents one of the major challenges we face. We fully concur with High Commissioner's call to find a lasting solution to this crisis, in line with international human rights law and humanitarian law. Such a solution must be complex and tackle also the root causes, alongside the concrete assistance to refugees and migrants. I can assure you, Mr. President that my country takes the migration challenge very seriously and is ready to contribute adequately to the EU's efforts in handling the crisis.

Finally, with regard to the undergoing re-organization of the Office of the High Commissioner and its move closer to the field, I would like to invite High Commissioner to inform us about field offices recently opened, or planned for opening in the near future. Is there, for instance, any progress on the opening of offices in Cairo and in Myanmar/ Burma? We would also like to hear more about the OHCHR regional hubs and how they could facilitate work on the ground.

In closing, let me wish Mr. High Commissioner all the success in exercising his important mandate.

Thank you.