**51st session of the UN Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue with the International Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia**

*22 September 2022*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic fully associates itself with the intervention on behalf of the EU.

We thank the Commission for the report. We appeal on all parties to the conflict to provide the Commission with the necessary cooperation, *including unconditional access to conflict-affected areas.*

We are deeply concerned by reports of renewed and escalating fighting in northern Ethiopia, continuing gross human rights violations including killings, as well as the deteriorating humanitarian situation, which has a devastating impact on the population.

We therefore call on all parties to the conflict to immediately cease hostilities, violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law as well as to take all measures needed to protect the civilian population. All allegations of human rights violations and abuses, *including sexual and gender based violence, hate speech and widespread arbitrary detention on ethnic grounds* as well as violations of international humanitarian law, must be thoroughly and transparently investigated. The perpetrators of these acts, including those that may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, must be held accountable *and brought to justice in accordance with international and regional standards.*

We support the initiation of a political dialogue between all parties to the conflict as part of the mediation efforts of the High Representative of the African Union Commission.

We welcome the establishment of the Ethiopian Inter-Ministerial Task Force (IMTF) *with the purpose to implement the recommendations of the Joint Investigation Team of OHCHR and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC)*. How do you evaluate the work of IMTF and are you planning future cooperation with the IMTF?

Is there scope for deeper cooperation with the African Union in the work of the Commission?

Thank you.