**43rd Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on Mali Mr. Alioune Tine**

**17th June 2020**

Mr President,

The Czech Republic supports the statement delivered earlier on behalf of the European Union.

We would like to thank you, Mr. Tine, for your recent report. We were pleased to learn about the good cooperation provided to you by the Government of Mali.

We note certain progress in the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali in terms of speeding up the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

However, we remain concerned about the reported human rights violations which include abuses associated with slavery and servitude or attacks against humanitarian workers and community representatives. The counter-terrorism operations led by the Malian defence and security forces must be conducted in compliance with international human rights obligations and cannot lead to enforced disappearances, torture and arbitrary arrests.

We have observed with interest the conduct of the postponed 2020 parliamentary elections. Unfortunately, according to the latest Secretary General report to the Security Council, many candidates, voters and election officers received violent threats and some were kidnapped. We would like to hear, Mr. Tine, your assesment of the organisation of elections.

I thank you.