**44th Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Interactive dialogue with OHCHR on human rights situation in Sudan**

*16 July 2020*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Madam President,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the EU statement.

We thank the OHCHR for the oral report. We welcome the recent steps announced by the Government of Sudan, which have contributed to improving a human rights situation in Sudan as e.g. ratification of the law criminalising female genital mutilation. Other appreciated measures are the announced improvement of the situation of women, the end of criminalization of apostasy or ban of flogging punishment

Still, there are many challenges for protection and promotion of human rights and democracy in Sudan. We call on the Government to prosecute those responsible for mass killings committed during the violent dispersal of protesters in Khartoum in June 2019. The Sudanese national reconciliation is not possible without the prosecution of serious human rights violations, as we have witnessed in Sudan one year ago.

We invite the transitional Government to organise and conduct general elections in accordance with international democratic standards. All Sudanese citizens should be allowed to enjoy their right to choose representatives in governance bodies and to stand for a public office in elections.

For many years, we have been calling for the establishment of the OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) office in Sudan. We therefore welcome the 2019 agreement between the Government and OHCHR. We would be interested to hear about the OHCHR priorities and challenges in the process of opening of the office.

Thank you.