**50th Session of the UN Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner’s oral update on Afghanistan**

*15 June 2022*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

The Czech Republic aligns with the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

We thank the Madam High Commissioner for the oral update.

We remain deeply worried by the human rights situation in Afghanistan closely interconnected with the alarming humanitarian situation which puts at risk the lives especially of women and children.

For the Czech Republic, a promoter of equal participation in public and political life, the advancing erasure of women from public and social life is extremely worrisome. The same goes for the suspension of girls’ secondary education, limitations of freedom of movement and expression or tendency for absolute gender segregation.

Recalling the Special Rapporteur Richard Bennett’s words at the end of his visit to Afghanistan in May 2022, there is a number of reports of intimidation, harassment or arbitrary arrests of journalists and judges as well as exposures of civilians to violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws, which is also of sizable concern for us.

We call on the Taliban to deliver on its international promises in the area of human rights.

Madam High Commissioner,

What are the prospects for the Afghan society to become a place where Afghan people including women and girls can enjoy freedom and human rights?

I thank you.