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

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan**

*12 September 2022*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

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

We thank the Special Rapporteur Richard Bennett for the report [on the developing situation of human rights and the recommendations to improve it].

We are gravely worried about the staggering human rights violations in Afghanistan, especially of women and girls, or dissolving independent oversight mechanisms and institutions, including both houses of Parliament, Independent Human Rights Commission as well as independent media.

We echo the Special Rapporteur grave concerns about high level of violence against women and girls, suspension of girls’ secondary education, mandatory hijab wearing or revoking female lawyers’ licences.

We call on the Taliban to revoke these unjust rules impacting on women and girl’s rights, to persecute and properly try and punish the perpetrators of domestic violence, and cease stigmatization and penalization of the victims.

Sharing the Special Rapporteur’s serious concerns about the situation of minorities, we urge the Taliban to stop their harassment, attacking their places of worships and arbitrary arrests and tortures, and to embark on a path of reconciliation.

[The Czech Republic cherishes and promotes equal participation in public and political life at home and worldwide. The situation in Afghanistan is extremely worrisome, also for the shrinking civic space.]

We wish to repeat our call on the Taliban to implement their human rights obligations.

Mr. Bennett, could you please specify how much the Afghan *de facto* authorities are open to cooperation with the international community, and to listening to our recommendations related to enhancing freedom and human rights of Afghan people and to implement their obligations under the human rights treaties?

I thank you.