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

**Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on violence against women**

*20 June 2022*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Mr President,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

The protection and promotion of human rights of all, without discrimination, including women and girls, belongs to the main objectives of the Czech human rights policy. The Czech Republic is committed to actively promoting gender equality, women’s economic empowerment and participation of women and girls in public and political life. *In line with our long-term policy involving all relevant stakeholders to the decision-making,* cooperation with and support of civil society, including women human rights defenders, remains a prominent priority.

*As highlighted in the report,* indigenous women and girls face complex and intersectional forms of violence, *both at individual and collective level. We share the Special Rapporteur’s concern that* indigenous women and girls are particularly at risk of violence while pursuing their political rights. It is a duty of States to ensure that all rights of indigenous women and girls, including their right to participation in political and public life, are protected. The full, equal and meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision-making, as well as that of girls, free from violence and discrimination, is essential to the achievement of gender equality, inclusive economic growth and sustainable development, the rule of law, peace and democracy.

Ms. Special Rapporteur, what can be done by States, in law and practice, to better protect women human rights defenders, including indigenous women human rights defenders, from violence and discrimination?

Thank you.