**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**43rd session**

**Item 2**

**General Debate on the oral update by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**27 February 2020**

**Statement of the Czech Republic**

Thank you, Madame President,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the EU statement and has some additional remarks.

Madame High Commissioner,

We wish to thank you for your oral update. We commend your efforts to openly describe the current state of human rights in the world as well as to conduct frank dialogue with States and this Council. We reiterate our strong support for your work and for an independent and impartial OHCHR. This support is also expressed by our regular financial contributions. Nevertheless, in line with our statement delivered at the High-Level Segment, we reiterate the need to strengthen the funding of the OHCHR by regular budgeting.

Madame High Commissioner, we welcome *(take note with interest of)*  your focus on new topics and your determination to draw the attention of this Council to issues such as the impact of climate change on human rights, challenges linked to developments of digital technologies and others. At the same time, we would like to support you in addressing problems that originate in disrespect of some governments to fundamental human rights and freedoms. These freedoms, such as the freedom of assembly or associations or the right to participate in political and public affairs, are still being repeatedly violated in too many states, including members of this Council.

We thank you for your oral updates on Venezuela, Nicaragua, Eritrea and Yemen. We remain concerned about the serious human right violations in **Eritrea**, member of the Council, including indefinite National Service or persistent ignorance of basic participatory rights, the right to vote and right to be elected.

In **Yemen**, the deadly cycle of conflict and violence causes continuing suffering of people, including children and other vulnerable groups. We reiterate our call upon all parties to the conflict to avoid air and artillery attacks on residential areas.

We are also grateful for your reports on Sri Lanka and Colombia as well as the Secretary’s General report on Iran. We regret the decision of **Sri Lanka**’s Cabinet of Ministers to withdraw cosponsorship of the Human Rights Councils Resolutions 30/1 and 40/1. We fail to see merit in this decision and have concerns about its procedural aspects and implications on the reconciliation process. We call on the government to fully implement its commitments for accountability, reconciliation and human rights.

We will address the serious human right situation in **Venezuela**, member of this Council, **Iran and Nicaragua** in our statements to be delivered under item 4.

I thank you.