**43rd Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Islamic Republic of Iran**

**9 March 2020**

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic fully associates itself with the intervention on behalf of the EU.

We thank the Special Rapporteur Javaid Rehman for his report and presentation that provide detailed information on the human rights situation in Iran. We reiterate once again our full support to his mandate. We firmly believe that Special Rapporteur’s country visit conducted based on unhindered access would be highly significant and would enable him to strengthen engagement with the authorities on human rights.

We take positive note of the Government’s engagement and dialogue between the Government of Iran and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The continued use of the death penalty against juvenile offenders is a practice that remains a deep concern for us. We urge the Iranian authorities to abolish the death penalty and introduce an immediate moratorium on its use and to prohibit the execution of child offenders in all circumstances and commute their sentences.

We are deeply committed to the protection and promotion of all human rights such as freedoms of opinion and expression, online and offline, as well as freedom of peaceful association and assembly. Therefore, we remain worried by the arrest, detention and harassment of human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, writers, labour rights activists, artists and environmentalists as well as by human rights violations in many other areas identified by the Special Rapporteur.

Thank you.