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

**Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights – Report of the Secretary General**

*29 September 2022*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Thank you, Mr President.

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the EU statement.

Supporting civil society, and human rights defenders in particular, has been one of the long-standing priorities of the Czech foreign policy. We therefore welcome the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations it provides.

The report mentions the risks and challenges that the use of digital platforms pose to civil society actors. We must pay close attention to ensure that new technologies contribute to a broader inclusion instead of an exclusion within the UN System.

It is worrisome to see in the report that new allegations of intimidation and reprisals referring to six States are included, apart from a follow-up on previous allegations. We are very concerned by the persisting trend of intimidation and reprisals against women.

Czechia strongly condemns any action that seeks to intimidate individuals or groups cooperating with the UN System. Any case of an alleged reprisal or intimidation must be taken with an utmost seriousness and looked into.

*Mrs Assistant Secretary-General,*

*What concrete steps can be taken in order to better understand intimidation and reprisals patterns that the report mentions? What can we do to prevent them?*