

20<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**Human Rights Council, 28<sup>th</sup> Session, General Debate under  
Item 6**

**Presentation of the mid-term report on the implementation of  
recommendations from the second Universal Periodic Review  
of the Czech Republic**

Thank you, Mr. President,

It is an honour to present the mid-term report of the Czech Republic on the implementation of recommendations from the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of October 2012. At its UPR, the Czech Republic accepted 129 out of the 136 recommendations received. Our mid-term UPR report will be handed to OHCHR, published on its website and circulated to the UN membership in the coming weeks.

To name just a few of the latest developments:

- We have ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on sale of children, children prostitution and pornography.
- We have intensified our efforts to eliminate discrimination against Roma. Whole set of legislative and practical steps continue to be taken to provide Roma children with equal access to quality mainstream education.
- We are preparing the strengthening of the status of the Public Defender of Rights.
- In the coming days, we will sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on individual communications and will initiate its ratification by the Parliament.

The UPR mechanism continues to be a valuable tool to improve human rights situation on the ground. We strongly support its practical and universal character as well as an unhindered participation of all stakeholders, including civil society, in it. We condemn all forms of reprisals against all those seeking to participate in the UPR process.

Thank you.