**UN Human Rights Council**

**35th Special Session on the deteriorating human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

*24 November 2022*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the EU intervention.

In response to the death of Mahsa Amini and the violent suppression of protests in Iran over the past two months, which has resulted in more than 400 victims, we have joined the call for this Special Session together with more than 40 other countries.

We note the information provided by Iran and the ongoing national efforts aimed at ensuring investigation and accountability. At the same time, we continue to receive deeply worrying reports from civil society, Special Procedures as well as the OHCHR of gross violations of human rights, especially of women and girls.

This Session is an urgent plea for Iran to end the violence and engage in a meaningful dialogue on human rights in cooperation with UN mechanisms, in order to achieve accountability for victims.

In the country, we continue to witness violent security forces raids not only in the streets, but also in universities and hospitals. Protesters in ethnic minority areas are treated particularly brutally. Even children are among the victims. In recent days, we have also seen dozens of death sentences imposed on protesters, which is alarming.

Iran must immediately stop the widespread and disproportionate use of force against nonviolent protesters as well as the arbitrary arrests and ensure due process for all detainees. All the acts must be properly investigated and the perpetrators held accountable.

Therefore, we support the establishment of an independent international investigative mission as proposed in the presented draft resolution.

Finally, let me recall our well known position: we are against the death penalty in all circumstances and without exception. We therefore call on the Iranian government to abolish the death penalty and impose an immediate moratorium on its use.

Thank you.