**46th Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Item 10 - Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on Mali**

*22 March 2021*

**Statement of the Czech Republic**

Madam President,

The Czech Republic supports the statement delivered earlier on behalf of the European Union.

We would like to thank you, Mr. Tine, for your recent report. We are pleased with the cooperation provided to you by the Government of Mali. At the same time, we regret you have not been able to visit Mali due to financial constraints faced by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Czech Republic was concerned about the development in Mali after the August 2020 coup d’état attempt. However, after the agreement on the political transition period and adoption of the Transitional Charter and its implementation, we hope Mali is back on the way to democracy, rule of law and respect to human rights.

We remain concerned about the reported human rights violations especially in the northern and central parts of the country caused primarily by violent extremist groups. The main victims are civilians. The Czech Republic will contribute to the protection of human rights in Mali with its participation in the EU Mali Training Mission. We are especially concerned about the involvement of the Malian defence and security forces to the human rights violation, as stated by the Independent Expert in its report.

We have studied with interest the Independent Expert´s recommendations as e.g. the recommendation to adopt law to criminalize slavery and conduct national campaigns for the abolition of slavery. What is your assessment of the latest developments in Mali?

I thank you.