**50th Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Urgent Debate on human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan**

*1 July 2022*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Mister President,

The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement of the EU.

We supported the request for today’s urgent debate because we are deeply concerned about the human rights situation of women and girls in Afghanistan.

We shared this concern already at the Special Session of the Council last August. Since then, the situation has worsened dramatically. Women and girls in Afghanistan continue to suffer from violence, including sexual and gender-based violence.

Discriminatory restrictive measures are progressively being implemented, including new strict rules on women’s public appearance introduced only several weeks ago. This is all part of a Taliban policy to exclude women and girls from public and political life, hinder their access to employment, education, health services or severely restrict their freedom of movement. It is deeply concerning.

This systematic oppression of Afghan women must end. Afghanistan must fulfill its international obligations. The protection and advancement of the rights of women and girls, including their right to participation in public, economic and political life, must be central to all laws, policies and political processes. The future peace and development of Afghanistan is dependent on it.

Thank you.