**UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Myanmar**

**22nd September 2020**

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU.

We thank the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Tom Andrews, for his oral progress report and we reassure him of our continuous support for his mandate.

The Czech Republic remains deeply troubled by the unrelenting violence and reports of civilian casualties, particularly in the States of Rakhine, Chin, Shan, Kachin and Kayin. Most of the perpetrators, including the Myanmar army, are not being held accountable. The legal system in the country is unable to render justice for crimes committed both by the military personnel and by other parties to the ongoing conflict. The Czech Republic urges all armed entities in Myanmar to implement genuine ceasefire.

We urge the Government of Myanmar to ensure the safety of journalists and human rights defenders who often become victims of harassment and persecution and to intensify the fight against hate speech. Internet shutdowns and blocking access to ethnic media websites are a clear violation of freedom of expression that can result in serious repercussions, especially considering the current Covid-19 pandemic.

We call upon the Government of Myanmar to closely cooperate with the newly appointed Special Rapporteur and with other relevant OHCHR bodies and grant them immediate access to the country.

*Mr. Andrews, what are your expectations of the upcoming general elections in Myanmar announced for the 8th November? How can we contribute to the ongoing democratic transition in the country and to a free, fair and inclusive election process?*

I thank you.