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UPR 13 – Statement of the Czech Republic to India

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of India and expresses its appreciation for its prepared national report. I would like to use the opportunity to make, on behalf of the Czech Republic, following comments and recommendations.

The Czech Republic acknowledges numerous efforts India has made to improve the implementation of civil and political rights as well as economic and social rights. Implementing some of the highest standards of human rights protection remains however a challenge.

The Czech Republic welcomes the commitment of India to ratify CAT and the national efforts to adopt the “Prevention of Torture Bill 2010”. We regret, however, that the ongoing legislative procedures continue to delay the ratification of the Convention. The Czech Republic recommends that India expedites ratification of the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol.

The Czech Republic regards highly the cooperation with international mechanisms for the protection of human rights, incl. the complaint and inquiry procedures, as a complementary mechanism to a national remedy system. We recommend India to consider signature and ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Czech Republic recommends the enactment of a law on the protection of human rights defenders, with emphasis on defenders facing greater risks, including those working on minority rights and the rights of scheduled castes and tribes.