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UPR 15 – Statement of the Czech Republic to Burundi

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Burundi and expresses its appreciation for participation in the UPR. We thank for the comprehensive report and recognize the efforts of the Government as well as number of challenges remaining in the crucial processes of reconciliation and strengthening of the rule of law.

We welcome that a new Penal Code abolishes the death penalty and criminalizes torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; however we are deeply concerned that it also criminalizes same-sex relations between adults.

Following on our previous recommendations we would like to recommend to the Government of Burundi:

1. to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to establish the national preventive mechanism accordingly; and
2. to adopt further measures to fight impunity of persons responsible for torture and extrajudicial killings and to conduct prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of these crimes.