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PATRICK RUMAR

UPR 16 – Statement of the Czech Republic to Russian Federation

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of the Russian Federation and takes note of its national report. We welcome the fact that Russian Federation has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

However, the human rights situation in the Russian Federation remains unsatisfactory.

We note with regret that the harassment of human rights defenders and journalists continues, and climate for civil society, as a fundamental pillar of democracy, remains hostile. We recommend to effectively and promptly investigate all reports of attacks or threats against human rights defenders and journalists and to bring perpetrators to justice.

We remain concerned by the amendments introduced to the Russian NGO law compelling Russian NGOs engaged in political activities and receiving foreign funding to present themselves as “foreign agents”. We are also concerned by recent steps undertaken towards these NGOs by the Government, including recent massive inspections of their activities. We recommend to put an end to all practices limiting activities of civil society, and to take concrete steps to guarantee the freedom of association in the Russian Federation.

We would like to further recommend to issue a standing invitation to all UN Special Procedures and to ratify the OP-CAT and to establish its national preventive mechanism accordingly.

Thank you