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UPR 16 – Statement of the Czech Republic to Turkmenistan

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of Turkmenistan and expresses appreciation for its participation in the 16th session of UPR. We thank for the comprehensive report and recognize the efforts of the Government of Turkmenistan as well as number of serious challenges remaining in the field of promotion and protection of human rights and strengthening of the rule of law.

We welcome the release of several political prisoners, including Valery Pal and Mukhametkuli Aymuradov, named in the previous UPR recommendations. Nevertheless, we are concerned that other individuals remain imprisoned on politically motivated charges.

The Czech Republic would like to recommend to Turkmenistan to:

- Immediately release all human rights defenders and political prisoners;
- Take effective measures to ensure the full realization of the rights to freedom of expression, including on internet, assembly and association;
- End harassment and intimidation of journalists, human rights defenders and civil society activists;
- Eliminate torture, accede to OP-CAT and establish its national preventive mechanism accordingly.

Thank you.

