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UPR 16 – Statement of the Czech Republic to Uzbekistan

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of Uzbekistan and expresses appreciation for its participation in the 16th session of UPR and for the comprehensive report on measures taken in the human rights area.

We welcome the efforts of Uzbekistan in the elimination of forced labour for children as well as the adoption of new legislation on judicial control of detention (habeas corpus).

Taking into account the irreplaceable role of an active and independent civil society, including activities of human rights defenders and independent journalists, for the positive development of any country, we recommend to promote the role of independent non-governmental organizations and to take effective measures to ensure the full realization of the rights to freedom of expression, including on internet, assembly and association.

Following on our previous recommendations we would like to recommend to Uzbekistan to:

- Continue its efforts to eliminate torture, accede to OP-CAT and establish its national preventive mechanism accordingly;
- Allow unfettered regular access of the ICRC to detention and prison facilities.

Thank you.