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CZECH REPUBLIC

17th UPR – STATEMENT ON THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of the Central African Republic.

The Czech Republic remains concerned about reports of ongoing massive human rights violations in the Central African Republic. We **recommend** that the Government prevent the involvement of foreign mercenaries in the internal conflict and their attempts to turn the violations into an ethnic and religious conflict.

We **recommend** the Government of the Central African Republic an immediate restoration of the rule of law and protection of its civilian population, especially vulnerable groups such as women and children. We furthermore **recommend** that the Central African Republic facilitate the return of refugees and internally displaced persons.

The Government should launch the process of national reconciliation. In this context, we **recommend** that the Central African Republic launch investigations of human rights violations and return to adherence to democratic principles, including through ensuring genuine periodic elections. We **recommend** that the Central African Republic prepare the elections in accordance with democratic standards while cooperating with the international community.

Thank you, Mr. President.