

VIKTOR VELEK

42

CZECH REPUBLIC

17th UPR – STATEMENT ON CHAD

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of Chad and thanks for its detailed presentation.

We welcome that the Government of Chad decided in September 2012 to sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and we **recommend** that Chad ratify it without delay. Responding to reports of violence, corruption, overcrowding and unsatisfactory hygienic conditions in Chad's prisons, we **recommend** that Chad improve the living conditions of detainees and establish a system of independent monitoring in all detention facilities.

We are concerned about continuing harassment of human rights defenders and journalists as well as about substantial gaps in the realization of the freedom of expression in Chad. In this regard, we reiterate our previous **recommendation** that Chad protect journalists and human rights defenders and ensure that they can operate freely and without fear of reprisal.

The Female Genital Mutilation was banned in Chad in 2003. Unfortunately, there is not enough state activity to enforce this ban especially in the countryside. We **recommend** Chad that it effectively implement the Female Genital Mutilation ban while giving young girls proper information about this prohibition.

Further, we are concerned about reports of use of sexual violence by some members of Chad's military and police units assigned in peacekeeping missions in Africa. We **recommend** Chad taking measures to prevent this criminal behavior and to enforce the respect for international and human rights law among its peacekeeping units.

Finally, we commend the invitation issued by Chad to international observers to participate in the legislative elections in February 2011. In this regard, we **recommend** that the Government implements the recommendations concerning the equal political participation such as to increase number of women candidates to the National Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. President.