

CZECH REPUBLIC

17<sup>th</sup> UPR – STATEMENT ON CHINA

Mr. President,

*The Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of the People's Republic of China.*

We commend China's efforts and achievements in poverty reduction and some other areas. However, we also observe serious shortcomings and wish to **recommend** the Government of China to:

- take effective measures to guarantee the freedom of expression and the media through amending existing laws and practices, including its State Secrets Law, and to release all human rights defenders and journalists;
- to ensure that its citizens can freely engage in the UPR process – past, present and future – through an open dialogue with authorities;
- to protect ethnic and religious minorities, including Tibetans and Uyghurs, stop all disproportionate policies against them, while addressing their discontent and peaceful protest in a non-violent, dialogical way;
- to protect North Korean refugees in accordance with international law, honoring the principle of non-refoulement;
- to take concrete and immediate steps to an early ratification of the ICCPR.

I thank you, Mr. President.