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CZECH REPUBLIC

17th UPR - STATEMENT ON ISRAEL

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Israel and appreciates its participation in the 17th session of the UPR.

We welcome Israel's ratification of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. We recommend that Israel recognize the competence of treaty bodies to examine individual complaints by ratifying the respective optional protocols, in particular the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

We are concerned that citizens belonging to minorities continue to be discriminated, directly or indirectly, in several areas of life. We therefore recommend strengthening the protection of rights of persons belonging to non-Jewish minorities and to ensure an effective participation of all citizens in political and public affairs.

The citizens belonging to the Bedouin minority have suffered repeated demolitions of their homes, forced evictions and were deprived of equal access to basic public services. We recommend that Israel protect also its Bedouin citizens from discrimination and ensure their rights to property, housing and public services on an equal basis with others.

We acknowledge the many positive achievements with respect to the advancement of women. We, however, note that the absence of general legal provisions for civil marriage and divorce and their regulation by religious laws can have particularly negative impact on women. We recommend introducing an alternative civil legal framework for marriage and divorce as an equally accessible option for everyone.