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CZECH REPUBLIC

17th UPR – STATEMENT ON MALAYSIA

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Malaysia.

Despite some progress, the Government of Malaysia has continued to use the Printing Presses and Publication Act (1984), the Official Secrets Act (1972) or the Sedition Act (1948) to restrict the freedom of expression and the media, including on the Internet. We therefore **recommend** the Government of Malaysia bringing the respective laws in line with international human rights standards and enabling all citizens to exercise fully the rights of opinion and expression.

Second, referring to one of our advance questions, we **recommend** Malaysia revise the Peaceful Assembly Act (2012) so that there is no discrimination and hindrance in the organization of peaceful public gatherings and protests.

Furthermore, we **recommend** that Malaysia continue in its judicial reforms, including strengthening the independence of the judiciary; enact a robust legislation outlawing torture and other inhuman or degrading treatment and tackling impunity for acts of torture and ill-treatment; and ensure that provisions for arrest and detention are in accordance with international human rights standards.

Finally, the Czech Republic **recommends** that Malaysia become a party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the CAT and its Optional Protocol, the ICERD, and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto.

Thank you, Mr. President.