

UPR18

CZECH REPUBLIC

STATEMENT ON AFGHANISTAN

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Afghanistan.

Despite some commendable achievements since 2009, more progress is needed to implement key UPR recommendations.

On gender equality, we **recommend** accession to and full implementation of the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW, amendment of laws that discriminate against women, and facilitation of a broad public discussion on women's rights and equality.

Second, we **recommend** reintroducing a moratorium on executions with a view to the abolition of the capital punishment.

Third, the Czech Republic **recommends** acceding to the Optional Protocol to the CAT and implementing measures ensuring prompt and impartial investigation of ill-treatment and torture of detainees as well as strengthening accountability mechanisms for police and armed forces.

Fourth, we **recommend** that Afghanistan implement and enforce provisions on freedom of religious worship set out in the Constitution and international human rights treaties to which it is a party.

Finally, the Czech Republic **recommends** that Afghanistan address shortcomings identified by international election monitors and ensure that the elections and campaigning ahead of them, including the access of candidates to the media, are transparent, free and fair.

I thank you.