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CZECH REPUBLIC

STATEMENT ON ERITREA

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Eritrea. We appreciate the national report as well as the presentation made today.

However, the Czech Republic remains concerned over the lack of progress on key human rights issues in Eritrea. We wish to make the following recommendations:

1. Given the numerous pending requests of Special Procedures to visit the country, we **recommend** that Eritrea duly cooperate with the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council and issue a standing invitation to all Special Procedures.
2. We **recommend** a swift ratification of the Convention against Torture as well as the Optional Protocol thereto.
3. We **recommend** that the Government comply, in law and in practice, with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
4. Referring to our questions sent in advance, the Czech Republic wishes to **recommend** Eritrea lifting severe restrictions on freedom of expression, both online and offline, and taking concrete measures to protect journalists and media workers from violence and arbitrary detention without an official charge.
5. Finally, we **recommend** Eritrea's electoral system be reformed and periodic and genuine multi-party elections be organized in accordance with international democratic standards.

Thank you.