

UPR18

CZECH REPUBLIC

STATEMENT ON VIETNAM

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Vietnam.

We note with appreciation some positive human rights developments in Vietnam, namely the adoption of a new Constitution following a broad consultative process, lifting the ban on same-sex marriages or the recent signature of the CAT.

We would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Ensure a speedy ratification of the CAT and the Optional Protocol thereto.
2. Take measures to ensure the effective protection of the right to freedom of expression and information as well as the independence of the media. We also **recommend** releasing all human rights defenders, journalists, religious and political dissidents detained for the peaceful expression of their opinion.
3. Take concrete steps in creating a friendly environment for NGOs, including by easing their registration requirements.
4. Issue a standing invitation to all Special Procedures.
5. To re-introduce a moratorium on executions with a view to the death penalty abolition.
6. And finally, enhance equal political participation of its citizens, including by taking steps towards multi-party democracy.

I thank you, Mr. President.