

UPR 19 – COTE D'IVOIRE

STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire and wishes to make the following recommendations:

With regard to efforts to eradicate torture, the Czech Republic reiterates its **recommendation** for ratification of the OP-CAT. We further **recommend** that the Government fulfil its obligations in accordance with the CAT, immediately submit its overdue initial national report to the Committee against Torture and include a specific individual offence criminalizing acts of torture as well as a definition of torture in the national legislation.

Concerning the election process, we **recommend** the Government adopting measures to ensure open and free campaign before the 2015 presidential elections, grant the opposition representatives access to all state-controlled media, and promote work of all journalists. We also **recommend** that the Government thoroughly investigate human rights violations perpetrated by all sides after the 2010 presidential elections and fully cooperate with the ICC's investigations.

Finally, the Czech Republic **recommends** a swift adoption of the law on the protection of human rights defenders by the Ivorian Parliament and its immediate implementation.