

UPR19 – PORTUGAL

STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Portugal and thanks for its presentation and the comprehensive national report.

We commend Portugal's efforts aimed at improving the access of Roma to education, namely through the National Strategy for the Integration of Roma Communities for the period 2013-2020 which comprehensively covers all areas of life in which Roma face difficulties. Achieving improvement may be very challenging, as it requires both addressing the underlying social causes and full cooperation of all stakeholders, including parents. We believe that various challenges will not prevent the Portuguese authorities in their resolve to progress further in ensuring access to quality education for all Roma children. In this regard, we **recommend** Portugal continue pursuing appropriate, efficient policies under the National Strategy for the Integration of Roma Communities aimed at further improving the access of Roma to education and, based on the evaluation of the impact of the existing policies, consider the adoption of additional measures.

I thank you.