

STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of Angola. We wish to put forward the following **recommendations**:

- First, to issue a standing invitation to UN human rights special procedures;
- Second, to ratify the Convention against Torture (CAT) and the Optional Protocol thereto (OP-CAT);
- Third, in line with the Final Report of the EU Election Expert Mission of 2012, we **recommend** that Angola address deficiencies in the legal framework of the electoral process; abolish restrictions on domestic and international observation; strengthen independence and transparency of the Electoral Commission and deal with flaws in the voter's register and with problems with the media coverage;
- Fourth, to improve the space for free operation of independent media, including state media, reinforce monitoring and sanctioning of abuses of media legislation and create an enabling working environment for journalists;
- And finally, to amend the Freedom of Information Act so that it is in compliance with regional and international standards.

I thank you.

30 October 2014