

**UPR22**

**BELARUS**

**STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

The Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of Belarus. We appreciate the delegation's response to some of our advance questions.

We have the following **recommendations to Belarus:**

- to take concrete steps to eliminate arbitrary detention as a form of persecution of political and civic dissent and release and fully rehabilitate all those sentenced directly or indirectly for their political and civic activities;
- to create environment conducive for free, fair and peaceful elections and ensure personal safety and equal treatment of all candidates and voters throughout the electoral process in the upcoming Presidential elections and beyond;
- to facilitate the registration of NGOs and create a safe and enabling environment for civil society and its work, including provisions on funding, and decriminalize the organization and participation in activities of unregistered associations, including by repealing article 193-1 of the Criminal Code;
- to reform the judiciary so that it can operate free from direct influence, oversight, pressure or interference of the executive branch of the government.

Thank you.