

UPR23

OMAN

STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

(čas: 1'25"; pořadí: 4)

The Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of Oman. (We appreciate the response to some of our advance questions).

We have the following **recommendations**:

First, we **recommend** adopting measures to address all forms of discrimination – such as against women or religious minorities – including support to public debates, awareness-raising campaigns and steps towards the revision of discriminatory provisions in the legislation.

Second, we **recommend** abolishing the *kafala* system which restricts rights of foreign workers and their access to redress mechanisms and makes them vulnerable to various forms of abuse.

Third, we **recommend** taking steps to increase women's participation in elections to the Shura Council, both as voters and candidates, and to widen the participation of all citizens in decision-making processes.

Fourth, we **recommend** Oman to facilitate procedures for holding peaceful protests and refrain from criminally punishing the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly, including through unregistered peaceful assemblies. In this regard, we also **recommend** properly investigating cases of the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials against protestors in 2011 and 2012, including prosecuting and punishing all those responsible.

Thank you.