

UPR23

RWANDA

STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

(čas: 1'20", pořadí: 79)

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

We have the following **recommendations**:

First, we **recommend** that Rwanda create an environment conducive to unhindered work of all political parties free from intimidation and harassment of those critical of the government, release all those imprisoned for their political views and foster the culture of political dialogue and political pluralism. In this regard, we also **recommend** that the Government guarantee equal access of all political parties to all stages of the electoral process, from registration to election campaigning.

We further **recommend** that Rwanda review its national legislation in order to strengthen media pluralism, provide for safety of journalists and human rights defenders and facilitate the functioning of NGOs so that these important actors can pursue their activities freely without undue interference, attacks or intimidation.

Finally, we welcome the recent ratification of OP-CAT and **recommend** Rwanda to swiftly establish a robust national preventive mechanism in accordance with OP-CAT.

Thank you.