

UPR25

TAJIKISTAN

STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

(čas: 1'40"; pořadí: 65)

The Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of Tajikistan. (We appreciate the informative presentation today including the response to some of our advance questions).

We make the following **recommendations** to the Government of Tajikistan:

- to ratify the OP-CAT and establish a national preventive mechanism accordingly, and ensure that prompt, thorough and impartial investigations are carried out into all allegations of torture;
- to review its legislation and policies in order to create a free, safe and enabling environment for journalists, bloggers and other individuals to exercise fully their right to freedom of expression; in this regard, we also **recommend** preventing arbitrary and extrajudicial blocking of websites and ensure that national security concerns are not invoked to stifle peaceful dissent and criticism of the Government or to restrict the right to freedom of religion or belief;
- to criminalize domestic violence, create conditions in which victims do not fear to report cases of domestic violence, and increase the number of shelters available for victims;
- and finally, to review the Law on Public Associations and all relevant policies in order to eliminate inappropriate restrictions on the right to freedom of association and ensure that civil society organizations, including those with foreign funding, can work free from undue administrative obstacles or harassment.

Thank you.