**UPR 44**

**AZERBAIJAN**

*14th November 2023*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Mr. Chair,

Czechia thanks the delegation of Azerbaijan for the report.

We welcome **the signing of Protocol 13 to the European human rights convention prohibiting the death penalty in all circumstances**, as well as the progress in the so-called Terter case and in addressing gender equality. We note that Czech recommendations from previous UPR cycle are yet to be implemented.

We wish to recommend that Azerbaijan:

1. Address concerns about registration and access to funding for civil society organisations to ensure they can play the needed role without fear of persecution.
2. Strengthen freedom of the press by amending those parts of the Media Law which overregulate requirements for professional journalists.
3. Encourage political pluralism by amending the Law on Political Parties to eliminate those measures which might be too restrictive for the freedom of association.

We wish Azerbaijan a successful UPR.

I thank you!