**UPR 44**

**COLOMBIA**

*7th November 2023*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Mr. Chair,

Czechia welcomes the Colombian delegation and commends Colombia’s progress achieved in order to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, in line with our previous recommendation.

We **recommend** that Colombia:

1. Takes concrete steps to prevent killings of and attacks of any kind on human rights defenders, including land and environmental defenders, and thoroughly investigates all such crimes.
2. Ensures and fully respects freedom of press and media independence, including protection of journalists against all forms of violence and discrimination.
3. Continues efforts to effectively implement and expand existing measures aimed at protecting women and LGBTIQ+ persons from discrimination and violence in a close cooperation with civil society.
4. Fully guarantees the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and adopts measures to prevent unlawful use of force by the police.

We wish Colombia a successful review.

I thank you.