**UPR 44**

**UZBEKISTAN**

*7th November 2023*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Mr. Chair,

Czechia welcomes the delegation of Uzbekistan.

We commend Uzbekistan for taking efforts to advance women’s rights, and for positive developments regarding the implementation of the UN Convention against Torture, which is in accordance with our previous recommendations.

We wish to **recommend** that Uzbekistan:

1. Accedes to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and strengthens the investigation and prosecution of allegations of torture and security forces violence during the events in Nukus in the Republic of Karakalpakstan in July 2022.
2. Adopts further measures to guarantee the right to freedom of expression, including freedom of the media offline and online, and creates a safe environment for journalists, bloggers and activists.
3. Amends the legislation restricting the right to freedom of peaceful assembly.
4. Adopts complex anti-discrimination legislation and lifts the ban on consensual homosexual relationships.

We wish Uzbekistan a successful review.

I thank you.