**Statement of Hungary on the Czech Republic**

**28th Session of the UPR Working Group, 6 November 2017**

**Mr. President,**

Hungary warmly welcomes the delegation of Czechia and thanks for the detailed national report and update. We welcome that the Government accepted many of the recommendations made during the second UPR cycle in 2012. We commend Czechia for the amended School Act entered into force last year, which abolished separate educational programme for pupils with mild mental disability. We appreciate the high number of support measures, including an obligatory and free of charge pre-school year and a guarantee of kindergarten places for all three-year-old children.

**Hungary recommends that the Government**

* Implement the Roma Integration Strategy for 2015-2020, which was adopted during the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Hungary welcomes that the Czech anti-discrimination law provides several options of defence for victims of discrimination. In addition to that, the ombudsperson can advise the victims as well on how to defend their rights. It would be interesting for us to learn how the envisaged new system of class action can contribute to combating discrimination.

Hungary is pleased that Czechia has introduced many changes to its Education Act, but has concerns about reports stating that many Romani children are still placed in specialized schools for no obvious reason. We are convinced that making further efforts to promote inclusive education more broadly will lead to a deeper integration of Romani children.

Protection of minorities is of key importance for Hungary. Hungary commends the Government’s policies and financial support involving national minorities. We encourage Czechia to further intensify efforts to foster tolerance and understanding within society at large towards regional or minority languages and cultures they represent.

**Thank you, Mr. President!**