**UPR37**

**Nepal**

*21 January 2021*

**STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Nepal and thanks for its comprehensive national report.

The Czech Republic feels encouraged by improvements that have been made in the Nepalese legal framework, mainly regarding to gender equality. The fact that menstrual isolation (chhaupadi), witchcraft allegations and dowry were outlawed is a major step forward. We also note with appreciation that the Government adopted a National Child Labour Abolition Master Plan. However, much remains to be done in the field of implementation.

To further improve the situation in respective areas, the Czech Republic makes the following **recommendations** to the Government of Nepal:

1. Safeguard the freedom of expression and foster civil society participation. Ensure that NGOs active in the field of human rights – including those receiving foreign grants – are free to operate.
2. Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) and introduce new legislation criminalizing torture, ill-treatment and enforced disappearances in all settings. Ensure prompt, impartial and independent investigations into all relevant cases and bring perpetrators to justice.
3. Adopt comprehensive legislation banning gender discrimination. Take effective measures to end gender-based violence, trafficking women and girls, and sexual exploitation. Provide sufficient number of safe shelters and other necessary services for victims.
4. Step up efforts in the fight against segregation and discrimination of indigenous peoples and ethnic and caste minorities, including Dalits and Tibetans.

Thank you.