**UPR37**

**Rwanda**

*25 January 2021*

**STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Rwanda and appreciates its comprehensive national report.

The Czech Republic welcomes implementation of its recommendations from the previous UPR cycle, especially in the area of combatting torture and promoting freedom of expression. However, other recommendations remain to be implemented. To further improve the situation in respective areas, the Czech Republic makes the following **recommendations** to the Government of Rwanda:

1. The Czech Republic welcomes the establishment of the National Preventive Mechanism in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture to monitor detention places. We **recommend** publishing the annual reports of the NPM as required under the NPM guidelines in order to improve transparency of the NPM’s work.
2. The Czech Republic further welcomes steps towards decriminalising defamation of national leaders and persons in charge of public service, including the President of the Republic. In line with our previous recommendation, we once again **recommend** to strengthen media pluralism and the safety of journalists and human rights defenders by amending the respective legislation to international democratic standards.
3. While appreciating the efforts by the Government of Rwanda on the national level, the Czech Republic still **recommends** accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, as a remaining part of the core international human rights treaties.

Thank you.