**UPR39**

**Eswatini**

*8 November 2021*

**STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Eswatini.

We would like to begin by appreciating the progress that has been made on women's and girls’ rights. We encourage taking further steps ensuring their systematic protection.

At the same time, we express our concern about the recent reports of killings of dozens of people during the pro-democratic protests and allegations of the excessive use of force, harassment, and intimidation by security forces in suppressing those protests.

Our previous recommendations have not been implemented.

Therefore, we **recommend** once again:

1. *To ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture.*
2. To further revise the Constitution and other laws and policies by the next UPR in order to allow forming of political parties and facilitating all forms of participation in political and public life in line with the ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).
3. To expeditiously reform the STA (Suppression of Terrorism Act) and Sedition and Subversive Activities Act so that they cannot be used to undermine the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.