**UPR40**

**Zimbabwe**

*26 January 2022*

**STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Zimbabwe.

While acknowledging Zimbabwe’s efforts to ensure that anti-pandemic measures do not lead to serious human rights violations, we **recommend** that any **lockdown measures and restrictions** are proportionate, necessary and time-limited without intimidation of citizens and media personnel.

We reiterate our previous **recommendations to:**

* **protect civil society actors**, including human rights organizations, against any harassment or persecution and improve the legal framework so that it encourages and facilitates the operation of non-governmental organizations;
* grant an unhindered access to the country **by all special procedures** who request a visit;
* take steps leading to ratifying the **CAT** and its **Optional Protocol (OP)**.

We further recommend adopting a **specific gender equality law** covering all grounds of discrimination against women;

Thank you.