**UPR40**

**South Sudan**

*31 January 2021*

**STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of South Sudan. We take note of certain positive developments such as the decrease of violent acts in 2021 and convocation of the National Governors Forum.

At the same time, the humanitarian situation remains critical. Human rights, including the rights to freedom of expression and of association, continue to be violated and abused. Sexual violence is widespread.

We **recommend** once again that South Sudan cooperates fully with all international human rights mechanisms, including the Commission on Human Rights and Special Procedures.

We call to accelerate the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan.

We **recommend** ceasing violations of international humanitarian and human rights law by ending all unlawful killings of civilians.

In this context, we also **recommend** ensuring credible, transparent and independent investigations into all allegations of serious violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and violations and abuses of international human rights law (IHRL).

We strongly **recommend** adopting without further delay all necessary constitutional and legal changes necessary for organizing democratic, free and fair elections in the foreseeable timeframe.

Thank you.