**UPR40**

**Sudan**

*1 February 2022*

**STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Sudan. We strongly condemn last year’s military coup and the violence and numerous unlawful detentions which followed. We encourage Sudan to pursue the path towards freedom, peace and democracy.

We **recommend** ratifying remaining key international human rights instruments, including the **OP-CAT** (Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture) and the **CEDAW** (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women);

Bearing in mind the importance of meaningful participation in political and public life and the role of civil society, we **recommend** refraining from prosecuting demonstrators and organizers of meetings for exercising their right of peaceful assembly.

We acknowledge certain legal reforms to address violence against women. Nevertheless, we **recommend** further strengthening these measures, including the efforts to combat Female Genital Mutilation through effective prosecution of people encouraging, facilitating, and performing those surgeries as the prevalence of FGM remains extremely high.

 Thank you.