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**UPR 41**

**POLAND**

*15 November 2022*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

The Czech Republic warmly welcomes Poland to the fourth cycle of UPR.

We commend Poland for its valuable efforts for the benefit of Ukrainian refugees, following Russia's brutal military aggression against Ukraine.

The Czech Republic recommends to:

1. Amend the **Act on the National Council of the Judiciary**, in particular with regard to the procedure of appointing its judicial members, and bring it into line with international standards relating to the independence of the judiciary and separation of powers.
2. Take concrete steps to implement the respective **judgements of international courts** with regard to the rule of law.
3. Intensify efforts to protect and promote **women's rights**, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, in line with international human rights law and standards.
4. Take concrete steps to guarantee the **freedom of the media**, including by adopting a legal framework fostering the development of free, independent and pluralistic media, and by taking effective measures to protect journalists from persecution, intimidation and harassment, both offline and online.
5. Take steps to effectively combat **discrimination**, in a comprehensive manner, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Thank you.