*1’00”*

**UPR41**

**South Africa**

*16 November 2022*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of South Africa. In response to our previous recommendations, we appreciate the approval of the first National strategic plan to combat gender based violence and femicide, ratification of the OP-CAT (Optional protocol to the Convention against Torture) and designation of a National preventive mechanism in 2019.

During this UPR cycle we wish to recommend that the Government:

1. Guarantees unrestricted space for **civil society** activities and ensure adequate protection to human rights defenders, whistle blowers and media workers;
2. Increases funding provided to **law enforcement** and strengthen its sensitization and skills training aimed at preventing torture, xenophobia and discrimination against women, foreigners and LGBT persons;
3. Takes further steps to implement the **National strategic plan to combat gender based violence and femicide**, including by providing adequate financial support to shelters for survivors;
4. Puts in place regulations to operationalize the **anti-torture legislation**.

We wish South Africa a successful review.

Thank you.