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**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION**

**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**42ND SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**Review of CZECHIA**

**23 JANUARY 2023**

**(70 Seconds)**

**speaker no: 25**

***Check against delivery***

Mr. President,

South Africa welcomes the distinguished delegation of Czechia to this UPR Session and wishes the country a successful review.

Given the indivisibility of all human rights, South Africa commends Czechia on the second implementation plan of the Strategic Framework 2030, defining the country’s long-term sustainable development priorities to improve the quality of life of its people.

South Africa wishes to make the following recommendations:

* Expand the mandate of the Ombudsperson to take up the role of a national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles.
* Set specific targets and time frames to ensure an increase in the participation of women, including Roma women, in legislative assemblies, the executive and the public administration.
* Collect gender-disaggregated data on the inclusion of Roma in the education, employment, housing and health sectors in order to evaluate the effectiveness of existing measures.
* Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment against children and strengthen activities aimed at encouraging non-violent forms of discipline as alternatives in this regard.

I thank you