**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of Czechia,**

**42nd Session, January 23, 2023**

**Delivered by Ambassador Michèle Taylor**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The United States welcomes the delegation from Czechia and heartily congratulates Czechia on as assuming the presidency of the Human Rights Council.

We recommend that Czechia:

1. Strengthen efforts to combat gender-based violence by implementing the government’s Strategy for Equality of Women and Men and devoting adequate resources toward this effort.
2. Review and strengthen efforts to decrease hate crimes, combat discrimination, and protect from violence or threats of violence members of minority groups, including Roma and LGBTQI+ persons.
3. Take steps to ensure that refugees, including Roma, who fled Russia’s war against Ukraine and seek protection in Czechia are not vulnerable to abuse, discrimination, or exploitation, including human trafficking or forced labor.

The United States commends Czechia’s longstanding commitment to the promotion of democracy and human rights.

We wish Czechia a successful UPR. I thank you.