**UPR 29**

**BURUNDI**

**STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Burundi and thanks for the presentation of the National Report.

We make the following **recommendations**:

* Firstly, to offer full cooperation to the Human Rights Council-mandated Commission of Inquiry on Burundi to conduct unhindered visits to the country and provide it with all the information and assistance necessary to fulfil its mandate.
* Secondly, to put an end to the sanctions against NGOs defending human rights, media and civil society and set up a national mechanism of protection of human rights defenders.
* Thirdly, to ensure that all groups of citizens including the members of opposition currently in exile can freely and safely participate in the constitutional referendum. Discontinue the practice of systematic and illegal detention of returnees upon their arrival at the border.
* And finally, to conduct prompt and impartial investigation of unlawful acts committed by security forces and *Imbonerakure* youth such as extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests and torture of members of the opposition, journalists, civil society activists and persons perceived as having supported the opposition and their families.

We wish the delegation of Burundi a succesful UPR.

Thank you.