**UPR31**

**Saudi Arabia**

*5 November 2018*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Saudi Arabia and thanks for the presentation of its third national report.

We note that the recommendations provided by the Czech Republic in the previous UPR cycle are yet to be fully implemented. In this context, we commend the Government for accepting the visit requests of two special rapporteurs [*on extreme poverty and human rights and on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism*] in 2017, however, we regret that Saudi Arabia has not responded positively to other dozens pending requests for country visits [*some dating back to 2004*].

**The Czech Republic makes the following recommendations to the Government of Saudi Arabia**:

Firstly, set a clear timeframe for the ratification without reservation of ICCPR, ICESCR, OP - CAT and OP – CEDAW [*implementing them fully into national law*] and review all reservations that limit the enjoyment of rights enshrined in CRC and CERD.

Secondly, outlaw the death penalty for crimes committed by persons under the age of 18 and non-serious crimes, such as nonviolent drug smuggling, adultery or protest - related crimes against human rights activists and dissidents.

Thirdly, amend or revise all legislations that restrict the right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly [*as 2015 Associations and Non –governmental Organizations Act or 2014 Counter –terrorism law*] and as well freedom of expression, *[including 2003 Press and Publication Law and 2007 Anti Cyber Crime Law*] and to ensure these laws are in line with international standards.

Fourthly, guarantee due process and ensure that the judicial and law enforcement system is not abused to harass individuals.

Fifthly, withdraw the reservations on CEDAW and put in place an action plan to modify or eliminate discriminatory attitudes towards women, including the male guardianship system.

Thank you.