**UPR31**

**MALTA**

14th November 2018

**STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

The Czech Republic thanks the delegation of Malta for its presentation. We welcome the positive steps undertaken by Malta in some areas of human rights since its last UPR, such as measures taken to improve the treatment of prisoners and detainees or efforts to strengthen independence, impartiality and transparency of the judicial system by amending the constitution in that regard.

We encourage Malta to continue these efforts and we offer the following recommendations:

* (First), while appreciating the ratification of several international human rights instruments, we **recommend** Malta to ratify Optional Protocols to CEDAW and CRC and to submit as a matter of priority all delayed reports to relevant treaty bodies;
* (Second), we **recommend** to ensure that the National Preventive Mechanism under the OP-CAT has the necessary powers and tools for its proper functioning, including human, financial and logistical resources, and that its mandate covers all places of deprivation of liberty and access to corresponding documentation concerning allegations of ill-treatment.
* (Third), while welcoming that Malta amended its constitution and enlarged the enumeration of prohibited grounds for discrimination we **recommend** Malta to take further practical steps to ensure full implementation of the anti-discrimination legislation and to combat all forms of discrimination, including on grounds of race, sexual orientation, gender identity and others.
* (Fourth), we **recommend** to create a conducive environment for media pluralism and independence in Malta, to effectively ensure safety of journalists and to guarantee proper and impartial investigation of crimes committed against journalists.

Thank you.