**UPR 33**

**Democratic Republic of the Congo**

*7th May 2019*

**STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Czech Republic welcomes the organisation of the December 2018 general elections and the subsequent peaceful transition of power after the declaration of the presidential elections results.

We regret that some of our recommendations from the 2nd UPR cycle on prevention of torture, protection of human rights defenders and access to justice for victims of sexual violence have not been implemented.

The Czech Republic makes the following **recommendations** to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

1. Fully cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms including the UN expert team supporting the investigation of murder of UN investigators in Kasai region in 2017;
2. Ensure protection of human rights defenders and journalists with emphasis on freedom of expression and assembly;
3. Fulfil its obligations from the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and immediately establish an independent National Preventive Mechanism for the prevention of torture with the mandate to visit all places of detention.

Thank you.