**UPR34**

**BOLIVIA**

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

The Czech Republic thanks the delegation of Bolivia for its comprehensive presentation. We take note with interest of some positive developments in the area of human rights, in particular measures to strengthen participation of women in political and public affairs. Nevertheless, the majority of our recommendations from the previous cycle are yet to be fully implemented, specifically those recommendations regarding the situation of human rights defenders and journalists, domestic violence and overcrowding of prisons.

We offer the following **recommendations**:

Firstly, regarding the situation of journalists and human rights defenders, we **recommend** to reform the legislation in line with international standards of freedom of expression, guarantee a safe and supportive environment for NGOs and human rights defenders and implement a legislative and operational framework for protection of journalists taking advantage of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

Secondly, the Czech Republic **recommends** Bolivia to fully address serious concerns regarding the vote counting in the recent presidential elections and finalise the elections while rigorously respecting the principles of transparency, legality, independence and impartiality. With respect to the Preliminary Report of the Election Observation Mission of Organization of American States from October 23, 2019, we also **recommend** to establish strict rules for election campaign and campaign finance as well as to review the rules for vote counting and aggregation of votes.

Thirdly, we **recommend** to eradicate the worst forms of child labour and practices of debt bondage, develop a new five-year plan with a view to eliminate these practises and ensure full rehabilitation and social integration of victims;

*(Lastly, the Czech Republic* ***recommends*** *to ratify the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, implement public policies designed to combat human trafficking and smugglingand strengthen regional cooperation focusing on prosecution of such crimes.)*

Thank you.