**UPR34 – ITALY**

***4th November 2019***

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

The Czech Republic thanks the delegation of Italy for its presentation and national report. We welcome the establishment of the national authority for the rights of persons detained or deprived of personal liberty as the national preventive mechanism for the prevention of torture and the recent adoption of the new Action Plan against racism, xenophobia and intolerance.

We **recommend** the Government of Italy to adopt further measures and safeguards to ensure the independent functioning of the media and safety of journalists.

While noting measures to combat racist hate crime, we **recommend** to continue addressing discrimination and hate speech against LGBTI and discrimination against persons with disabilities. Concerned at the high proportion of persons with disabilities who had not attended school, we further **recommend** to improve the quality of inclusive education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training.

While welcoming the Law on gender-based violence and the national action plan to combat violence against women (2017 – 2020), we remain concerned over the gender-based violence against women and girls. We therefore **recommend** to adopt effective prevention and protection measures and ensure adequate reception places for women fleeing violence.

Thank you.