**UPR34**

**Kazakhstan**

**STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

Thank you, Mr President.

The Czech Republic commends the delegation of Kazakhstan for its active participation in the 2019 UPR review and for the recognition of the need for efficient communication with the public and business as stated in the National Report.

We would like to begin with appreciation. We have noted the positive development concerning protection of the rights of the child, improvement of sanitary conditions in some detention facilities and the Government’s declared commitment to a zero-tolerance policy of torture and ill-treatment. However, we regret that a significant number of our recommendations from previous UPR cycles have not been fully implemented.

In line with our previous recommendations, we therefore **recommend** that Kazakhstan:

1/ Ensure proper investigation of all allegations of torture and other ill-treatment by an independent mechanism and immediately adopt strict safeguards to ensure that no statement obtained through torture can be used in courts;

2/ By the next UPR review, revise the Criminal Code in accordance with Kazakhstan’s obligations under the ICCPR, in particular Articles 130 (libel), 274 (dissemination of knowingly false information), 400 (violation of the order of organising rallies) and 405 (participation in the activities of an organisation after its recognition as extremist);

3/ Take immediate measures to ensure the effective protection of lawyers, media workers, bloggers and human rights defenders against any form of harassment and immediately and unconditionally release human rights defender Max Bokayev as per the request made by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention;

4/ Ensure full compliance with the principle of non-refoulement.

The Czech Republic wishes the delegation of Kazakhstan a successful review.

Thank you.