**UPR 35**

**Armenia**

*23rd January 2020*

**STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

The Czech Republic thanks the delegation of Armenia for its comprehensive presentation. We take note with interest of positive developments in some areas, in particular in the sphere of media freedom and electoral rights.

We offer the following **recommendations** to the Government of Armenia:

Firstly, in order to effectively proceed with the judicial reform we **recommend** to establish strong and independent anti-corruption institutions and to ensure proper and transparent vetting procedures of judges, prosecutors, investigators and police officers.

Secondly, we **recommend** initiating a comprehensive electoral reform to adopt a new Electoral Code, developed in close consultation with civil society organizations, taking into consideration the recommendations of international and local observation missions*.*

Thirdly, the Czech Republic **recommends** stepping up the efforts to enact comprehensive media regulations, including by adopting the legal measures to ensure media ownership transparency and independence of public broadcaster.

Fourthly, we **recommend** to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, which will provide effective mechanisms for protection, access to justice and effective remedies for victims of discrimination, including protection for human rights defenders and their family members

Thank you.