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**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other
elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council**

Note verbale dated 21 April 2022 from the Permanent Mission of Czechia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and has the honour to refer to the candidature of the Czech Republic to the Human Rights Council for the vacant seat to be filled by the Eastern European States for the term expiring on 31 December 2023, in the by-elections to be held during the seventy-sixth session of the Assembly.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations also has the honour to transmit herewith the voluntary pledges and commitments reaffirming that the promotion and protection of human rights are a priority of the foreign policy of the Czech Republic (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations would be grateful to the President of the General Assembly if the present note and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Assembly, under agenda item 116 (d).



Annex to the note verbale dated 21 April 2022 from the Permanent Mission of Czechia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of Czechia to the Human Rights Council, by-elections 2022

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution [60/251](#)

I. Introduction

1. The Czech Republic pledges to work for the promotion and protection of human rights during its future membership of the Human Rights Council through the voluntary commitments below.

II. At the international level

2. The Czech Republic will work for the advancement of human rights in international human rights forums in a fair and equal manner. As we did during our previous terms on the Human Rights Council, we will actively participate in its work with a view to supporting its mandate in line with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#). We will support adequate and timely responses to human rights violations and abuses wherever they occur. We will work to pursue accountability. We will address both country-specific and thematic issues, including those requiring urgent action by the Council.

3. On the Human Rights Council, the Czech Republic will collaborate in a transparent manner and in goodwill with all States across all regions as well as with civil society and human rights defenders. We will promote cooperation and dialogue and support States in implementing their human rights obligations and commitments through technical assistance and capacity-building.

4. We will continue to closely cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, advocate its independence and impartiality and support its activities, including through our continuing voluntary financial contributions.

5. The Czech Republic is a staunch supporter of international human rights mechanisms. We will continue actively participating in the universal periodic review dialogues, offering our recommendations to States and supporting them in their efforts to implement the recommendations.

6. We will contribute to the work of the Human Rights Council, drawing upon our historical experience of transitioning to an open and democratic State based on the rule of law and respect for human rights.

7. The Czech Republic remains committed to countering all forms of discrimination, including discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, ethnic and social origin, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, disability, age, sexual orientation and gender identity. We will promote equal opportunities for all, support women's economic empowerment and actively defend women's rights. We will take an active stance against violence inflicted on women and girls, including the use of sexual violence in armed conflicts.

8. We will continue lending our strong support to equal participation in political and public affairs, as well as to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, including by presenting relevant resolutions to the Human Rights Council.
9. The Czech Republic will also promote freedom of expression and information, both online and offline, as a gateway to the enjoyment of a wider range of human rights and will support free and independent media.
10. Mindful of the increasing role of information and communications technologies, we will place emphasis on protecting the same rights online that people have offline, while working to address digital challenges, such as the digital divide. In this context, we will promote a human-centric and human-rights-based approach to digital technologies, as well as the concept of digital humanism, on the Human Rights Council and other platforms.
11. We will remain dedicated to promoting the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Human Rights Council and will speak out against any acts of intimidation or reprisal against those who seek to cooperate, cooperate or have cooperated with human rights mechanisms.
12. Human rights are universal, and we commit ourselves to engaging on both civil and political rights, as well as on economic, social and cultural rights. We will continue contributing, through development cooperation and policy projects to promote transition that are fully in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, to the support for and protection of human rights, the rule of law, democracy and good governance in partner countries in all regions.
13. The Czech Republic will continue to support institution-building in the area of the rule of law, including through activities aimed at combating torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment.
14. We will also continue to promote human rights in the environmental context, including the right of all people to live in a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

III. At the national level

15. We pledge to continue actively engaging with the universal periodic review mechanism, including during the national review of the Czech Republic in January and February 2023.
16. We will continue offering our full cooperation to all of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, to which the Czech Republic was one of the first Member States to issue a standing invitation, in September 2000, and will stand ready to rapidly respond to any requests for visits. We will continue submitting our national reports to the treaty bodies and follow up on their recommendations.
17. We pledge to effectively use the standing consultative structures of the Government, such as the Governmental Council for Human Rights and its working bodies, ensuring continuing dialogue with academia and civil society organizations on human rights issues.
18. We pledge to work towards the establishment of a national human rights institution to promote and monitor the effective implementation of international human rights standards and to foster cooperation with civil society organizations at the national level in line with the Paris Principles.

19. We pledge to work on the effective prevention of violence against women and domestic violence, as well as on the effective implementation of international human rights treaties at the national level.
 20. We pledge to continue promoting the equality of and non-discrimination against the Roma and supporting their social integration, political participation and empowerment.
 21. We pledge to continue creating equal opportunities for all, including through measures to increase the participation of women in decision-making and in politics.
 22. We pledge to continue strengthening the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including through continued support for the effective political participation and employment of persons with disabilities.
 23. We pledge to strengthen the further implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular in the area of the protection of children against any form of violence, and to ensure their right to grow up in a family environment.
 24. We pledge to sensitize Czech businesses, in particular State-owned businesses, to human rights, in particular by promoting human rights dialogue among businesses, the State, trade unions, academia and civil society.
 25. We pledge to continue implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and promoting human rights in employment and in the environmental context.
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