



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-ninth session

Item 115 (c) of the preliminary list\*

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

### **Note verbale dated 29 February 2024 from the Permanent Mission of Czechia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

The Permanent Mission of Czechia to the United Nations in New York has the honour to refer to the candidature of Czechia to the Human Rights Council for the term 2025–2027, at the elections to be held in October 2024 in New York.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), the Permanent Mission of Czechia to the United Nations has the further 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 Czechia (see annex).\*\*

The Permanent Mission of Czechia to the United Nations would be grateful if the present note and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 115 (c) of the preliminary list.

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\* [A/79/50](#).

\*\* Circulated in the language of submission only.



## **Annex to the note verbale dated 29 February 2024 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, 2025–2027**

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

1. Czechia pledges to work on the promotion and protection of human rights during its future membership of the Human Rights Council through the following voluntary commitments and pledges.
2. Czechia, in support of its candidacy to the Human Rights Council for the period from 2023 to 2025, commits to advancing and promoting the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all around the world as well as at home.
3. Driven by the values, principles and commitments anchored in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Czechia regularly serves on the Council and demonstrates its lasting and strong commitment to the United Nations, the Human Rights Council, its special procedures and the treaty bodies. On top of this, we are proud to be serving as the Presidency of the Council.
4. Czechia strives for an open and predictable international order based on clear and fair rules. Ensuring a dignified life, promoting rule of law, supporting civil society and the widest possible participation of the population in political and public affairs, as well as the use of digital technologies as enablers of rights and freedoms, are our main goals in the field of human rights.
5. Pursuing a human rights-based approach in its foreign policy, Czechia strives to contribute to international security. Respecting human rights may concurrently prevent or limit the emergence of security threats such as armed conflicts, terrorism or irregular migration, and fundamentally contributes to the growth of prosperity.
6. In January 2023, we were pleased to take part in the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review. Having carefully reviewed 242 received recommendations, the Czech Government has accepted almost 86 per cent of them. During the whole process we closely cooperated with Member States and civil society representatives in line with our commitments and determination for further promotion and strengthening of human rights in Czechia, and for overcoming the existing challenges.
7. In external relations, Czechia pledges to:
  - Consistently aspire to the full enjoyment of human rights by all people around the world by addressing advancement of human rights both in international human rights forums and in bilateral political dialogues.
  - Support the role of prevention of the Human Rights Council in the promotion and protection of human rights through dialogue and cooperation.
  - Persist in supporting the active and meaningful participation of civil society in the work of the Human Rights Council, as diverse viewpoints contribute to the effectivity of the Council.
  - Continue, together with other States, to seek other tools to increase effectivity of the Council and its programme of work.
  - Uphold adequate and timely responses by the Council to human rights violations and abuses wherever they occur, and pursue accountability. In participation with the international community, we will continue addressing country-specific and

thematic issues while promoting universality, transparency and objectivity of the Council.

- Carry on with providing its backing for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, advocating its objectivity, impartiality and independence, also through voluntary funding.
- Contribute to the work of the Human Rights Council, drawing upon our historical experience of transition from totalitarian to an open and democratic State based on the rule of law and commitment to respect, protect and fulfil human rights.
- Continue, as a staunch supporter of international human rights mechanisms, to actively participate in the universal periodic review dialogues, offering our recommendations to States, and support States in their efforts to implement the recommendations.
- Strongly uphold Human Rights Council investigating mechanisms of alleged violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes, thus contributing to ending impunity and to justice for victims and survivors, such as the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine.
- Promote a structured human rights dialogue with all States across regions to reach, as well as civil society and human rights defenders, to achieve the greatest possible rapprochement and convergence.
- Remain committed to fundamental rights, among others the right to freedom of expression and information, while supporting free and independent media, freedom of peaceful assembly and association and the right to freedom of religion or belief for all individuals, including persons belonging to minorities.
- Continue promoting a human rights-based approach to digital technologies, as well as the concept of digital humanism, while striving for ending the use of digital surveillance tools to silence activists and protesters.
- Commit to counter all forms of discrimination and stigma and uphold human rights of all persons regardless of their sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, race, ethnic and social origin, religion or belief, disability, age, political or any other opinion, and strive towards ending impunity for human rights violations.
- Uphold economic empowerment of women and actively defend their rights. We will take an active stance against violence inflicted on women and girls, including the use of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts, which may amount to war crimes.
- Support States in implementing their human rights obligations and commitments through technical assistance and capacity-building.
- Continue supporting 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.
- Contribute, through development cooperation and transition promotion policy, projects in partner countries in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, for promotion and protection of human rights, the rule of law, democracy and good governance.
- Closely cooperate to promote human rights in the environmental context, including the right of all people to live in a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

## 8. At home, Czechia pledges to:

- Continue offering its full cooperation and support to the Human Rights Council, all its special procedures, to which we issued a standing invitation in September 2000, and the treaty bodies.
- Actively implement the recommendations received during the universal periodic review in January 2023 and supported by the Czech Government, and continue to actively engage with the universal periodic review mechanism.
- Continue its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of international human rights treaties on a national level.
- Steadily work on the effective prevention of violence against women and domestic and intimate partner violence.
- Strive for the ratification and implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, which creates a comprehensive legal framework and approach to combat violence against women while focusing on preventing domestic violence, protecting victims and prosecuting offenders.
- Strive for the accreditation of the Ombudsman Office as a national human rights institution, which shall promote and monitor the effective implementation of international human rights standards and foster cooperation with civil society organizations at the national level in line with the Paris Principles.
- Achieve setting up the independent institute of the Defender of the Rights of the Child, who shall monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and focus on support for children, their participation and awareness about their rights.
- Thoroughly analyse the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on communications from individuals claiming to be victims of violations and its implementation.
- Effectively and thoroughly implement the Czechia gender equality strategy for 2021–2030, including by ensuring sufficient funding.
- Make necessary efforts to develop, in close collaboration with civil society, a specific strategy and set up strategic priorities aiming for the full enjoyment of human rights by all LGBTI+ persons.
- Eliminate, in line with our international obligations, the condition of sterilization for legal gender recognition.
- Continue working on social integration, political participation, emancipation, fair treatment and equal opportunities for the Roma population in employment, housing, social and health care and education, while ensuring their effective protection from discrimination and anti-Gypsyism.
- Support the protection and promotion of the rights of the child, including the protection from any form of violence, and foster their participation in affairs which concern them.
- Continue to implement strategic frameworks and policies for employment and protection of labour rights, for social inclusion and support for children and families, for health-care reform, enforcing health prevention and supporting health capacities, or for modernizing the education system to improve its inclusiveness and foster the educational potential of each and every child.

- Continue creating equal opportunities for all, including through measures to further increase equal, full and meaningful participation of women in decision-making and in public and political life.
  - Implement measures to guarantee the protection of rights of migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and temporary displaced persons, particularly women and girls.
  - Continue promoting human rights in the environmental context and the Sustainable Development Goals while providing stakeholders with the necessary support.
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