



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

30 October 2023

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of the Czech Republic by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 42nd session in January/February 2023. The constructive engagement between your Government, my Office, and the UPR mechanism is warmly welcome. As the final outcome report on the review of Czechia was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 53rd session, I have also taken note of the efforts of your Government to implement specific recommendations since the previous review.

A matrix of thematically clustered recommendations, starting with those supported by your Government, is available at OHCHR's website (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/cz-index>), and should be considered as part of this letter. The matrix indicates the recommending State and links each recommendation to relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In annex, I have also attached my Office's observations in light of the outcome of the fourth cycle of the UPR. In line with previous practice, I will be sending similar observations to all Member States once their fourth cycle UPR outcome is adopted by the Human Rights Council, with a view to follow-up action in close cooperation with national entities and other stakeholders.

I take this opportunity to draw your attention to the support available through the Voluntary Fund for UPR Implementation, which may be activated at the request and with the consent of a concerned State, along with tools such as the "UPR practical guidance" and the "UN good practices" repository on how the UPR process supports sustainable development, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/upr-main>, with a view to facilitating efforts to implement UPR recommendations in line with the SDGs.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'V. Türk'.

Volker Türk

His Excellency
Mr. Jan Lipavský
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Czech Republic



Observations in light of the outcome of the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review

It is commendable that Czechia appointed the first Commissioner for Roma Minority Affairs on 1 January 2023, and has adopted the Strategy for Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation for 2021-2030.

The preparation of an amendment to the Act on the Public Defender of Rights with the aim of establishing a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles is welcome.

Efforts for the protection and advancement of women are positively noted, such as the Strategy for Gender Equality 2021–2030, the Action Plan for Equal Pay, as well as the approval by the Government of the proposal for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

Member States, during the review, made a number of recommendations, including with respect to hate speech, hate crimes and discrimination against Roma, Muslims, asylum-seekers and LGBTIQI+ persons. Further sustained efforts are needed to prevent and address these concerns and to hold perpetrators accountable. Furthermore, Czechia is urged to increase measures to ensure fair and equitable treatment of Roma children in the education system.

It is also of concern that corporal punishment remains legal. The intention of the Government to introduce into its legislation a complete ban on corporal punishment, including in the family setting and in the education and health care systems, is a welcome positive step in this regard.

Czechia is also encouraged to develop an implementation plan in follow up to the UPR outcome, in close consultation and cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular the Chamber of Deputies and Senate, the judiciary, the Public Defender of Rights, local and regional governments, and civil society organizations. The matrix may be of use in the development of such an implementation plan. The Government is encouraged to explicitly link each UPR recommendation to corresponding recommendations of other international or regional human rights mechanisms and to the relevant SDG and its targets. This will, in turn, facilitate the creation of synergies between UPR implementation and SDG related actions and reporting within the context of the Voluntary National Review (VNR).

The Government is further encouraged to further strengthen the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, with the aim of ensuring a coordinated and effective approach to reporting to international human rights mechanisms, and to implementing the recommendations, in line with the guidance provided by OHCHR



following regional consultations and the High Commissioner's report to the Human Rights Council ([A/HRC/50/64](#)).

Further, an important measure that can positively contribute to follow-up action is voluntary mid-term UPR reporting. All Member States are encouraged to submit a voluntary mid-term UPR report some two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome, detailing both implementation efforts as well as challenges to implementation, including the possible need for technical or capacity-building assistance. In this regard, the statement by Czechia at the adoption of the universal periodic review outcome that it remains fully committed to submit such a report in 2025 is particularly welcomed.

OHCHR
30 October 2023