



Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic
to the United Nations

Statement
by

Mr. Jiří Ellinger, Chargé d'affaires a.i.

at the

Security Council Open Debate on
Sexual Violence in Conflict

“Preventing sexual violence in conflict through empowerment, gender equality and access to justice”

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Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Czech Republic **aligns itself** with the statement of the **European Union**.

I would like to thank to the UN Secretary-General António Guterres for his valuable report and strong commitment to implement the agenda of preventing sexual violence in conflict and introducing new initiatives to make changes on the ground. I would also like to thank to the Special-Representative Ms. Pramila Patten for her extensive work and dedication.

The Czech Republic is deeply concerned about persistent occurrence of sexual and gender based violence in reported countries. **We should step up our effort to put an end to the atmosphere of impunity. Initiatives on high political level should be translated to concrete actions** to ensure the accountability concept is fully implemented on the ground.

The Czech Republic remains determined to help combat sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict countries. In the partnership with non-governmental organizations the Czech Republic implements projects aimed at preventing sexual violence and abusing women and girls, including setting up centres for the marginalized and abused girls and IDPs health care

and hygienic needs **in Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Libya, South Sudan, Iraq as well as in Pakistan, Jordan and Bangladesh.**

We believe that the culture of violence relates to socioeconomic factors and occurs where various groups are marginalized. The Czech Republic therefore addresses **the root causes of the inequalities in societies** by implementing projects aimed at the economic empowerment of women and their equal participation in public and political affairs. Such projects are implemented **in Georgia, Zambia, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.**

Secretary-General's report confirms that **sexual and gender-based violence cases remain underreported.** Equal participation of women and men in law enforcement agencies creates an environment more conducive to reporting these serious crimes. Therefore **the Czech Republic has become a lead nation of the Jordan III Trust Fund** - a capacity building project to develop service women in Jordanian Armed Forces.

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic adopted its **National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security in January 2017.** The plan contains concrete measurable tasks, including measures on combatting conflict-related sexual violence, as well as all forms of violence and discrimination against women, girls, men and boys as a violation of human rights. The Czech Ministry of Defense adopted its own Action Plan to Implement the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2015. **The training in line of the "Zero Tolerance Policy" is obligatory for peacekeepers** before joining the UN or other international peacekeeping mission.

In terms of enforcing accountability, **the Czech Republic continues to support the International Criminal Court and ad hoc international tribunals.**

The Czech Republic **supports global gender activities of UN Women** by regular voluntary financial contributions.

Mr. President, as **a candidate country to the Human Rights Council,** we remain committed to the advancement of **empowerment of women, gender equality and access to justice.** Let me assure you that the Czech Republic remains strongly committed to prevent and protect women, girls, men and boys from falling victim to these terrible crimes.

Thank you, Mr. President.