



CZECH REPUBLIC

Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

76th Session of the General Assembly

Third Committee – ID with Mr Clément Voulé

Statement by

Lenka Aldorf

First Secretary

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One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, 48th floor
885 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017
tel.: +1 (646) 981 4001, fax: +1 (646) 981 4099
www.mzv.cz/un.newyork

Mr Chair,

Czechia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

The rights of assembly and association belong to the long-term human rights priorities of Czechia. As a staunch supporter of the Special Rapporteur we have been submitting the respective Human Rights Council resolution with the Core Group of other States for years, and we will continue to do so.

Czechia thanks Mr Clément Voulé for his latest report. We agree on „the importance of social movements and recognition of their valuable contributions to the development of healthy and prosperous societies“. We appreciate mentioning the specific problematic cases, such as the dissolution of public associations in Belarus or the new legislation which has been recently adopted in several states.

Considering the media coverage, we see a great benefit in having public service media that are able to be unbiased when reporting about social movements' activities, since they should not be bound by the interests of the owners or the government.

We must not tolerate any attacks towards social movements' members, even if we don't agree with their activities. States should evaluate whether their anti-terrorism or anti-corruption legislation restricts the social movements' freedoms.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

Could you specify some red flags to look for that indicate a potentially restrictive legislation of social movements' freedoms? Could you specify a positive example of social movements' members protection laws?

Once again, the Czech Republic would like to thank you for your work.