**49th session of the HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**General debate on the oral update**

**by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**

8 March 2022

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the EU statement and has some additional remarks.

Madame High Commissioner,

We thank you for your update on a series of human rights situations and themes that are of concern to your Office. Rest assured that the Czech Republic continues to support and defend the independence and impartiality of your mandate.

We would like to address the following situations over the course of this session:

We remain concerned by the continuing lack of progress with regard to human rights situation in **Eritrea**, as well as by the impact of the conflict in Ethiopia on the situation in the country. We condemn the ongoing systematic human rights violations, including with regard to freedom of opinion and expression, assembly and association, and freedom of religion.

While recognizing certain positive developments in the past weeks, we remain worried about the ongoing conflict in **Tigray** and northern **Ethiopia**, which has exacted a devastating toll on civilians. We call on all parties to immediately stop the atrocities, ensure a safe and unimpeded humanitarian access and enter a process of peaceful dialogue and reconciliation.

We took good note of the written update on **Sri Lanka** submitted pursuant to resolution 46/1. We share your concerns about the continued lack of accountability for past human rights violations and recognition of victims' rights. We continue to support the Government of Sri Lanka in its reconciliation and accountability process, and encourage it to recommit to the resolution 46/1.

We remain concerned about the worrying situation of human rights in **Nicaragua**. We are particularly worried about the reports of arbitrary arrests, harassment and violent repression against political opponents, journalists and civil society in the context of the November elections. We call for the immediate release of those unjustly imprisoned.

**I thank you.**