**51st Session of the UN Human Rights Council**

**General debate on the oral update by the Acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**

*13 September 2022*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Thank you, (Deputy) / Mr. / High Commissioner.

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

Let me join others in **welcoming you as** (the new) **High Commissioner for Human Rights** and wishing you (him) every success. We firmly stand by the independence of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, whose work is much appreciated. We are committed to a close cooperation with the UN human rights system, which should be robust to be able to take decisive action and prevent, monitor and assist to combat displays of violence and human suffering.

We remain concerned about the difficult **financial situation of the OHCHR** and we call on all UN Member States to fulfill their commitments and pay their contributions. The OHCHR funding should be strengthened by regular budgeting. I am pleased to inform you that the Czech Republic has this year increased its voluntary contribution to the Office.

We are meeting at the time when **Russia** continues its unprecedented armed attack on a neighbouring, peaceful Ukraine and Ukrainian people resulting in well-documented horrific human rights violations. Yet, even if none of the calls of the democratic world have been heard by Russian authorities, we have to call again and again on the Russian President to halt the war and withdraw Russian military forces from the territory of Ukraine. We further insist on accountability for those horrible violations, including those amounting to war crimes.

*We carefully listened to your updates, including on the situations in Sri Lanka and Nicaragua and the report on Myanmar.*

We are alarmed by the ample indications of crimes being continually committed in **Myanmar**, which constitute a systematic attack against the civilian population. These crimes of murder, torture, deportation, rape and other forms of sexual violence, persecution and imprisonment must cease, and the humanitarian and human rights law must be restored.

We took good note of the report on **Sri Lanka** and perceive the complexity of the situation and the impact of the economic, social and political crises on human rights, while victims of the past human rights violations still await the truth and justice. We will continue to lend our support to Sri Lanka in its recovery, reconciliation and accountability process.

The human rights situation in **Nicaragua** remains worrying as it has progressively deteriorated. We call on the authorities to embark on a dialogue and follow the recommendations by the High Commissioner offering concrete actions and solutions, to restore the rule of law, immediately release all persons arbitrarily detained and sentenced, and to reinstate the civic space.

Let me also use this occasion to thank **Michelle Bachelet** and express our high appreciation for the work done in her service to the defence of international human rights law and standards, and for her tireless efforts to call the attention of the international community to the violations of human rights across the globe.

**I thank you.**