**33rd Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Item 10**

**Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on Burundi**

**27th September 2016**

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Thank you Mr. President,

Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the human rights situation in Burundi today and we thank the independent experts for the presentation of the final report of the United Nations Independent Investigation in Burundi (UNIIB).

The Czech Republic supported the establishement of the UNIIB by the Human Rights Council on 17th December 2015 and its mandate. In this context we thank the Government of Burundi for its cooperation in relation to the country visits and the deployment of the Secretariat of OHCHR, but at the same time we regret that UNIIB faced several challenges, including the fact that two of its four planned visits could not be carried out.

According to the final report of the UNIIB the independent experts found abundant evidence of gross human rights violations and abuses in the country. We strongly condemn all these human rights violations and abuses such as arbitrary deprivations of life, enforced disappearances, torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, sexual and gender-based violence, excessive use of force, arbitrary or unlawful arrests and detention, including mass arrests. We deeply regret as well that Burundian civil society actors, notably human rights defenders and journalists, have been primary targets of systematic repression by authorities.

It´s extremely disturbing that according to the report the Government of Burundi is failing to meet its obligations to promptly, thoroughly, and impartially investigate and prosecute violations and to bring the alleged perpetrators to justice. We call upon the Government of Burundi to fully cooperate with the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in order to investigate and prosecute alleged crimes against humanity.

For all these reasons we invite the Government of Burundi and non-state actors to follow the recommendations made by the UNIIB and the international community to take the necessary measures to prevent further deterioration of the human rights situation in the country. Therefore we support the recommendation of the independent experts that the Commission of Inquiry should be established immediately to continue the work accomplished by UNIIB.

*Mr. Christof Heyns, as a chair, have you already received any written information or reply to your letter dated 19 July 2016, with a follow-up dated 1 September 2016, on your specific questions to the Government* *of Burundi?*

Thank you, Mr. President