**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**45th session**

**Comprehensive report of the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen, item 2**

**29 September 2020**

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Thank you, Madam President.

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the EU statement and thanks the Group of Eminent Experts for its report.

We are highly appreciative of the important work of the Group of Eminent Experts, which has thoroughly detailed the disturbing humanitarian and human rights crisis in the light of the ongoing conflict in the country.

The humanitarian conditions of the civilian population and continuing human rights violations in Yemen are matters of very serious concern. The persistence of reported human rights violations, including enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, gender-based violence *and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, the recruitment and use in hostilities of children, the denial of fair trial rights, and violations of fundamental freedoms, and economic, social and cultural rights, is particularly worrying.*

All parties must respect international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

We should seize any opportunity to stop the escalation of violence in the region. A durable and effective cessation of hostilities, which would create proper conditions to facilitate *the rapid and* unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief *and to protect civilians*, remains a priority.

Hence, we continue to fully support the efforts of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy aimed at *reaching a cessation of hostilities and* achieving a sustainable and inclusive peace. We endorse the renewal of the mandate of the Group of Experts with a view to strengthening accountability for human rights violations.

The Group of Experts has raised some issues of concern and made concrete recommendations. Could you share any views on expected progress regarding countering impunity for human rights violations in the coming year?

I thank you.