**UN Human Rights Council**

**49th Session**

**Item 4 – Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur**

**on the Islamic Republic of Iran**

*17 March 2022*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic fully associates itself with the intervention on behalf of the EU.

We thank the Special Rapporteur for his report. We reiterate our full support to his mandate and its extension, and continue to call for Iran’s full cooperation with his mandate.

We deplore the increasing number of executions in Iran, and especially the continued execution of juvenile offenders. We are opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances and with no exception.

Pervasive repression of the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly also remains a critical concern. We strongly call on Iran to stop the persecution of journalists, human rights defenders and peaceful activists. Urgently, we also call on Iran to stop and reverse legislative steps to create a state-controlled digital network to replace access to the internet, further curtailing citizens’ access to independent sources of information.

*We also consider it necessary to draw attention to the continued lack of accountability for serious human rights violations perpetrated in the past.*

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

On the issue of accountability, can you inform about any concrete actions taken at the domestic level and what steps would you recommend at the international level?

Thank you.