**UN Human Rights Council**

**49th Session**

**Item 4 - Interactive Dialogue with the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan**

*18 March 2022*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

The Czech Republic aligns with the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

We thank the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan for the comprehensive report. *We welcome the Commission had an opportunity to visit South Sudan.*

We are deeply worried by the human rights situation in South Sudan. As the presented report explains, violent and brutal conflicts between state and non-state actors continue. Extra-judicial killings, enforced disappearances, torture during detention and sexual violence show the government’s inability to protect its own people. *Civilians can’t rely on the protection by the state.*

State security forces violate freedom of peaceful assembly and association. Freedoms of opinion and expression continue to be restricted. Government critics, including journalists and civil society members are held in prolonged arbitrary detention in harsh conditions without charges or prospect of a free trial.

The elections in South Sudan should be held in June 2023. *As mentioned in the presented report*, the human rights violations severely undermine prospects for credible elections. Still, we call on the Government of South Sudan to organise the elections on time and to provide free and fair opportunity for citizens to choose their own representatives.

Commissioners, what is the chance of having the elections in South Sudan in 2023? Is the Government capable to organise elections in accordance with international democratic standards?