# **UN Human Rights Council**

## **49th Session**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur**

**on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders**

*11 March 2022*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the EU statement.

Madam Special Rapporteur,

We welcome your report on human rights defenders working on anti-corruption issues, including its important Annex.

We share your view that corruption is a human-right issue closely connected to the rights to freedom of association and to participate in political and public affairs. We recognize the crucial role of independent media and anti-corruption human rights defenders and we welcome the positive examples described in your report. On the other hand, we express our concern about the severe risks that they are facing. Their harassment and surveillance must be condemned.

For our part, the Czech Government has pledged in its 2022 Policy Statement to introduce a new law on unified public record of subsidies and clickable public budgets. We continue to implement the Government’s Anti-corruption Strategy for the years 2018-2022 that was prepared in cooperation with Civil Society and puts Civil Society’s development among its four key priority areas.

**In your recommendations, ensuring an enabling environment to protect anti-corruption defenders is featured. In this regard, could you share concrete examples of good practices?**

Thank you.