**UN Human Rights Council**

**49th Session**

**Item 4 – Interactive Dialogue with the Fact-finding mission on Venezuela**

*17 March 2021*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Thank you, Mr President,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the EU statement.

We thank the Fact Finding Mission for its update and we reaffirm our continuous support to its mandate.

The Czech Republic reiterates its grave concern over the ongoing human rights violations in Venezuela. We condemn the persecution of members of the opposition and attacks against media freedom and civil society actors.

We are alarmed by the reported cases of unlawful arrests, arbitrary detentions *based on alleged grounds of involvement in actions to destabilize the Government*, as well as torture *and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of detainees.*

We urge Venezuelan regime to immediately stop human rights violations, ensure adequate conditions in detention centres and release unconditionally all persons unlawfully or arbitrarily deprived of liberty.

Furthermore, we also call on Venezuela to restore the independence of the justice system and to ensure that any future judicial action will be strictly guided by the principles of rule of law *according to international standards.*

A question for the FFM: How can the international community contribute to ensuring accountability for human rights violations and finding justice for victims?

I thank you.