**UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
45th session**

**ID with the Fact Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

**23 September 2020**

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Thank you, Madame President.

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

We thank the Fact Finding Mission for the report and its presentation.

The findings of the report are serious. Human right violations documented in the report amount to crimes against humanity since they were committed as a part of widespread and systematic attack directed against civilian population. This must not remain unaddressed. Perpetrators must be brought into account. Victims must be provided with justice and reparations.

Of special concern for us is the conclusion of the Mission that state authorities at highest level ordered or contributed to the commission of the documented crimes. This includes the President, ministers of interior and defence as well as directors of security and intelligence entities. We call for prompt, thorough and independent investigation and determination of individual criminal responsibility by competent judicial authorities, either in a national or international jurisdiction.

We would like to ask the members of the Fact Finding Mission the following question. *Given the findings of your report that indicate compromised judicial independence in Venezuela, which accountability mechanisms would in your view best serve the urgent need to find justice for victims? How can the international community, including this Council, assist in achieving this objective?*

I thank you.