**52nd session of the Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine**

**20th March 2023**

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Mr President,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the EU statement.

We welcome the report of the Commission and express full support to its work. The report shows that our worst nightmares have unfortunately been proven true.

Wilful killings, unlawful confinement, widespread and systematic torture, rape and forced deportations of civilians, including children. Indiscriminate and disproportionate bombing, usage of explosive weapons in populated areas, rocket attacks on energy-related civilian infrastructure. These are only some examples from the endless list of Russian crimes in Ukraine, with many amounting to war crimes as well as those that may amount to crimes against humanity.

It has been nine years since Russia decided to attack its neighbour bringing enormous suffering for many in the East of Ukraine. It has been a year since Russia decided to further escalate this brutal, unprovoked and unjustified war. We called hundreds of times on Russia to immediately stop its aggression against Ukraine. That is how the enormous violations of human rights and international humanitarian law described in this report can be stopped and all their perpetrators brought to justice. How many people must suffer before Russia abandons its senseless brutal war?

We echo the Commission’s call for comprehensive approach to accountability, with victims´ rights to truth, reparation and non-repetition to be ensured.

Commissioners, what are the biggest challenges you face in your investigations and how could we effectively mitigate them?

I thank you.