**Special Session of the UN Human Rights Council**

**on the human rights implications in Myanmar**

12February 2021

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Madam President,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the EU statement.

Today’s Special Session is being held because of the urgency and seriousness of the current developments in Myanmar and to examine the country’s commitment to international human rights law.

The Czech Republic strongly condemns the military coup and stands with the people of Myanmar. We remain supportive of the country’s legitimate, democratically elected leadership and call for respect of the last year’s elections.

So far [as of 9 February], more than 170 persons have been detained and arrested, including President U Win Myint, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, one of the NLD leaders Win Htein, members of the civil society such as Mya Aye, Min Thway Thit, Aung Myo Ko and Htoo Khant Thaw, as well as monks, writers, journalists, media workers and human rights defenders. We call for their immediate and unconditional release.

Human rights and fundamental freedoms must be respected and protected in Myanmar. Any use of force against people exercising their rights to peacefully protest and participate in public affairs across the country must be avoided. Attacks on journalists and representatives of the civil society, internet shutdowns, and targeted blockage of social media are unacceptable, and must be immediately and permanently ceased.

We urge the military regime in Myanmar to listen to the international pleads, accept an internal offer for mediation, fully cooperate with all UN mechanisms, enable a safe humanitarian access and above all respond to the will of the people of Myanmar.

The presented resolution offers a good way forward, it presents an opportunity to work together in a constructive manner. The Czech Republic and Myanmar have a long tradition of cooperation on the democratic transition that we can build upon. This is the moment.

Thank you.