**47th Session of the UN Human Rights Council**

Item 4 – Interactive Dialogue on HC report on Venezuela

*6 July 2021*

**Statement of the Czech Republic**

Thank you, Madame President,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the EU statement.

We thank Madame High Commissioner for the presentation of her report and for the technical support provided by her Office to Venezuela.

We remain concerned about the human rights situation in the country. It is alarming that extra judicial executions continue in the context of security operations – prompt and independent investigations to ensure accountability are crucial. We reiterate our call for the unconditional release of all those arbitrarily detained.

Reported attacks and reprisals against civil society actors, as well as the use of legal and administrative measures to restrict civil society activity, are worrying. Criminalization of journalists, humanitarian workers, union leaders and members or supporters of the opposition is another sign of shrinking civic space. Holding free and fair presidential and parliamentary elections is the only way out of the current crisis. We therefore emphasize the need to ensure conditions for meaningful participation in public life, including dissenting voices.

We call on Venezuela to cooperate with the Office of the High Commissioner and to permit country visits by Special Procedures that have requested to do so.

I thank you.