**50th Session of the UN Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner’s Oral Update on situation in Mariupol**

*16 June 2022*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Madam High Commissioner,

Thank you for your oral report. Mariupol is with no doubt one of the main tragic symbols of the brutal and senseless war that Russia wages against Ukraine. The city of half a million people has lived with a war in its backyard since 2014. The hardship, however, has never stopped Mariupolitans from striving for better future. Step by step, with help of people from all over the world, they moved their city forward – reconstructing hospitals and universities, building up parks, developing businesses.

All this – buildings, lives and dreams – is now destroyed by Russian bombs. Human rights have become meaningless in the city under constant shelling, with no running water, limited food supplies and the lack of medicine. Tens of thousands Mariupolitans were deprived of the very core right to life, the others have to make a choice – surviving in destroyed city in dire conditions or leaving through so called filtration camps where the rule of law or human dignity are non-existing.

What happened to families hiding in the theatre of Mariupol clearly marked as a place of child shelter? Who made the decision to bomb hospitals thus committing a clear war crime? Where are the people who do not pass the filtration procedure when trying to escape the city?

Russia hides answers. Russia wages the war, which creates the environment where human lives and rights mean nothing. We call on Russia to immediately stop the war and we ask all relevant international bodies to ensure justice for victims of these horrors.

I thank you.