



Czech Republic
UN Human Rights Council
Candidate for 2019 - 2021

Voluntary Pledges and Commitments of the Czech Republic

in Accordance with Resolution
A/RES/60/251

2018

The Government of the Czech Republic pledges to work for the promotion and protection of human rights during its future membership of the Human Rights Council through the following voluntary commitments:

On International Level

- As a member of the Human Rights Council, the Czech Republic will draw on and offer its **unique experience of transition** to an open and democratic State based on the rule of law and respect for human rights.
- The Czech Republic will work for the advancement of human rights in international human rights fora. We will actively participate in the work of the Council, with a view to further enhancing its credibility and efficiency. The Czech Republic attaches great importance to the role of **prevention** and therefore will support **adequate and timely responses to human rights violations and abuses** wherever they occur. We will speak up openly on both country-specific and thematic issues, in particular those requiring an urgent action of the Human Rights Council.
- In the Human Rights Council deliberations, the Czech Republic will **collaborate in a transparent manner and in good will** with all States across all regions as well as with civil society. The Czech Republic will promote the **freedom of expression and information** as a gateway to the enjoyment of a wider range of human rights, **including the freedom of assembly and of association**.
- We will continue **closely cooperating with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**, advocate for its independence and impartiality and continue our voluntary financial contributions to it.
- The Czech Republic will continue its support to the international human rights mechanisms. We will continue **offering our full cooperation to all of the Council's special procedures**, to which the Czech Republic issued a standing invitation in September 2000 as one of the first UN members, and will stand ready to rapidly respond to any requests for visits. We will continue submitting in a timely manner our national reports to the **treaty bodies** and follow up on their recommendations. We will continue actively participating in the **UPR** dialogues offering our recommendations to States.
- The Czech Republic will continue lending its **strong support to equal participation** in political and public affairs and to free and **enabling space for civil society**. We will continue to strongly support the engagement of non-governmental organizations with the Human Rights Council and speak out against any acts of intimidation or reprisal against those who seek to cooperate, cooperate or have cooperated with human rights mechanisms.
- We will continue contributing, through **development cooperation and transition promotion policy projects**, which are fully in line with the SDGs, to the support for and protection of human rights, the rule of law, democracy and good governance in partner countries.
- The Czech Republic will continue to support **institution-building in the area of the rule of law** including through activities aimed at **combating torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment**.

On National Level

- We pledge to **submit a UPR mid-term report** in 2020 and inform on an early implementation of several of the supported recommendations under item 6 of the Human Rights Council session in March 2019,
- We pledge to **effectively use the standing consultative structures** of the Government as the Governmental Council for Human Rights and its working bodies ensuring continuing dialogue with academia and civil society organizations on human rights issues.
- We pledge to **work on an early ratification** of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe on Action against violence against women and domestic violence; as well as on the **effective implementation** of international human rights treaties on national level.
- We pledge to continue **promoting equality and non-discrimination** of Roma and supporting their social integration, political participation and empowerment, including through the work of the **Governmental Agency for Social Inclusion**.
- We pledge to continue challenging gender stereotypes in the society and **creating equal opportunities for women and men** including through measures to increase participation of women in decision making and in politics.
- We pledge to continue **strengthening implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, including through continued support to the effective political participation and employment of persons with disabilities.
- We pledge to **strengthen further implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child**, in particular in the area of protection of children against any form of violence and to ensure their right to grow up in a family environment.
- We pledge to sensitize Czech businesses, in particular state owned businesses, to human rights, in particular through **promoting human rights dialogue between businesses, State, trade unions, academia and civil society**.
- We pledge to continue implementing the **Sustainable Development Goals** and promoting human rights in **employment and in the environmental context**.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic