UNITED NATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

52nd session

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Torture

14 March 2023

Statement by the Czech Republic

Madam Special Rapporteur,

The Czech Republic would like to congratulate you on your appointment as UN Special Rapporteur on Torture. It is our firm belief that torture and similar inhumane practices must receive our full attention, and that we must work together to eradicate them as effectively as possible.

We condemn any case of torture and other ill-treatment anywhere in the world. Among others, we remain deeply concerned about the cases of torture and ill-treatment committed in the Ukrainian areas occupied by Russian armed forces, as documented by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine.

We believe your mandate, along with the Committee for the Prevention of Torture of Council of Europe (CPT), the UN Subcommittee on Torture (SPT) and the Committee Against Torture (CAT), must play an important role in investigation of these atrocities.

We would like to thank you for the report you shared with us and for the inspiring recommendations it contains. Torture must be considered as special category of crime due to its specific characteristics. When compared with other crimes, torture is underreported and underinvestigated due to the fact that it is often committed by government officials with the support of the government. As whistleblowers of torture are often subject to retaliation or threats, there is a need to establish means for protecting them.

Madam Rapporteur, are there any established practices in this area that we might be able to follow? Could you share with us some recent best practises?

Thank you.