**52nd Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Islamic Republic of Iran**

**20 March 2023**

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the EU intervention.

We thank Special Rapporteur Javaid Rehman for his report. We fully support his mandate and its extension. We greatly appreciate the bravery of Iranian citizens who, despite high risks, continue to report on human rights violations.

The Iranian government’s suppression of the recent wave of mass protests has led to a dramatic and manifold deterioration of the human rights situation. We strongly condemn the reported brutal and in many cases lethal violence by law enforcement personnel against unarmed protesters, including children, women and girls, and the mass arrest, detention, and prosecution of peaceful protesters. We also strongly condemn the documented widespread use of torture in prisons, forced confessions and other violations of the rights of detainees. We call on Iran to immediately stop all these practices, *as well as to uphold the right of all defendants in court to due process.*

We fully share the Special Rapporteur's concern about the sharp increase in executions in Iran. We again call on the government to abolish the death penalty and impose an immediate moratorium on its use, *and call for an end to the execution of child offenders*.

We also call on Iran to ensure respect for the basic rights of its citizens, to allow independent investigation into human rights violations, and to hold perpetrators accountable. The first step must be to initiate full cooperation with the Special Rapporteur and the international Fact-finding mission, including allowing them to conduct in-country visits.

Thank you.