

Special Session of the Human Rights Council on Libya
Statement of the Czech Republic

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic supports the statement delivered by Hungary on behalf of the European Union.

The Czech Republic welcomes the convening of the Special Session of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The Czech Republic wishes to express its support to the UN Security Council statement, which urged Libya to punish those responsible for the attacks on civilians. In this respect, we would like to reiterate that each individual State has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. The United Nations General Assembly should consider suspension of the rights of membership in the Council of a member that commits gross and systematic violations of human rights.

The Czech Republic follows with great disappointment and frustration the current developments in Libya. We deplore the violence which caused a great number of civilian casualties and extend our condolences to the families of victims. We call upon the Government of Libya to immediately stop any attacks against civilians and cease intimidation, persecution and arbitrary arrests of individuals, including lawyers, human rights defenders and journalists. Latest threatening statements made by the Libyan leader and his close circle have only further escalated the atmosphere of fear and violence. The international community must guarantee that those responsible for gross and systematic human rights violations in Libya will be held to account.

The Czech Republic calls for an open, inclusive, meaningful national dialogue, which will lead to necessary reforms, the application of the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Otherwise we face a danger of disintegration of the country with possible grave consequences for the peace and stability of the whole region.