

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2018**  
**Statement by the Czech Republic**  
**Working Session 1: Democratic Institutions**

Mr Chairman,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and the recommendations made on all the described topics.

The Czech Republic supports ODIHR's autonomous mandate. Elections related activities remain a corner stone of the ODIHR's mandate.

For a long time we have been discussing with ODIHR the establishment of a system to evaluate the performance of Long-Term Observers participating in OSCE Election Observation Missions (EOMs). We appreciate the recent ODIHR's measure to create a simple evaluation system and we invite all participating States to ask for the evaluation of their Long-Term Observers.

Another important measure was done by ODIHR to openly tackle the harassment cases. This measure was necessary to keep the OSCE credibility. We welcome the elaboration of the leaflet on Promotion of a Professional Working Environment and the inclusion of anti-harassment warning into every observers briefing before their deployment.

Mr Chairman,

the Czech Republic has contributed Long-Term and Short-Term Observers to all OSCE EOMs in 2018. Professional Long-Term Observers are a cornerstone to any EOM. We have managed to increase the number of Czech Long-Term Observers (in average we deploy two Long-Term Observers to every EOM). Further increase is possible in 2019 because the Czech Republic will increase its budget for deployment of Czech observers for 20%. We are convinced that we have a number of experienced and very well qualified experts who would make a valuable contribution to EOMs Core Teams.

The Czech Republic gladly cooperated with OSCE Election Assessment Mission, which observed parliamentary elections in October 2017. The Czech government has taken the

recommendations included in the Mission's Final Report very seriously and has prepared a written reaction to these recommendations. We are also ready to welcome in the Czech Republic the OSCE Follow-Up Mission.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.