



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

1109 MADISON AVENUE,
NEW YORK, NY 10028
TEL 1(646) 981-4000 • FAX 1(646) 981-4099

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The Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations and has the honour to advise that the Government of the Czech Republic has decided to present the candidature of the Czech Republic for election to the Human Rights Council at the election to be held during the 60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 9 May 2006. The candidature of the Czech Republic to the Human Rights Council constitutes the continuation of its campaign for election to the Commission on Human Rights in the period 2007 - 2009.

On the basis of its own historical experience, the Czech Republic attaches great importance to the universal promotion, protection and implementation of civil and political rights as well as of cultural, economic and social rights. The promotion and protection of human rights constitutes the basis of the foreign policy of the Czech Republic. Continued attention is paid to regional and universal human rights mechanisms that in an important way complement national mechanisms. During its membership of the Commission on Human Rights in the period 1997 - 2002, the Czech Republic actively participated in the reinforcement of these principles and would like to continue its work in this field.

The Czech Republic has ratified nearly all major United Nations human rights conventions and optional protocols to these conventions. The Czech Republic has been cooperating in a constructive way with the Treaty Committees supervising the observance of the commitments arising from major human rights conventions of the United Nations. The Czech Republic supports the work of the United Nations Special Procedures and promotes effective cooperation with these mechanisms - it was among the first countries to have extended standing invitations to them.

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

- To ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- To ratify the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;
- To support the approval of the draft International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance;
- To contribute to the negotiation and an early approval of the draft of the Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

The Government of the Czech Republic would highly appreciate valuable support of United Nations Member States for the candidature of the Czech Republic to the Human Rights Council.

The Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions of all Member States to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, March 27, 2006



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to the United Nations
New York