CZECH REPUBLIC

Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

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High-level Meeting to Commemorate the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations

Statement by

H. E. Mr. Tomáš Petříček

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

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Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to introduce statement on behalf of the Czech Republic by H. E. Mr. Tomáš Petříček, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

75 years ago, a new world system was set up. Multilateral cooperation and respect for a rules-based international order, human rights and fundamental freedoms were placed at its core. I am proud that Czechoslovakia was one of the 50 countries, which originally signed the UN Charter. Unfortunately, for many countries, the aftermath of World War II did not bring freedom and democracy. Czechoslovakia was one of them until the Velvet Revolution of 1989.

Today’s meeting is an opportunity to recall the key principles and values of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Our principles! Time and again, we have witnessed their breaches, including blatant violations of human rights, of State sovereignty and territorial integrity, or even use of chemical weapons. Undermining the rules-based international order has far-reaching repercussions for all. We stress the need for accountability and fighting impunity. We acknowledge the commitment of the United Nations to these principles and call for upholding them further on.

I am deeply concerned by the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on people’s lives, our societies and economies. It jeopardizes efforts to achieve the SDGs and risks deepening other existing problems. In an increasingly interconnected world, effective actions - that our citizens have every right to expect - require multilateral solutions. Only by working truly together we can “build back better, fairer and greener”.

Promotion and protection of peace, security and human rights and achieving sustainable development requires integrating gender equality into all our policies and practices. We see human rights as the core value of open, inclusive and free societies worldwide.
The Czech Republic is a firm supporter of the UN Secretary-General in his reform efforts, in particular his emphasis on conflict prevention and mediation. For the UN to deliver lasting solutions, we have to ensure political support, efficient tools and necessary funds.

No other global organization gives rise to so much hope of so many people who wish to live their lives in freedom, safety and dignity, as does the UN. In our deliberations about how to make “the future we want” happen, we need to involve young people. It is them who will live with the consequences of our decisions and our actions.

Let me wish the UN on its birthday that it regain the youthful energy of its early days, while preserving the acquired wisdom of a 75-year old.

Many happy returns, United Nations!

I thank you.