

Thank you, chair,

Dear ladies and gentlemen

My name is Hana Stelzerova and I speak on behalf of Czech Women's Lobby umbrella organisation and group of interested Czech NGOs.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to raise our comments to the very important issues. The situation described in the report shows the positive improvements that have been achieved by our government but still the reality can differ.

- The report indicates the crucial role of the state, that we appreciate. Contrary, the report is missing information about a collective impact on fulfilling the SDGs. The civil society organizations have been the systemic change initiators and play an important role in advancing sustainable development in the Czech Republic. As the report says, NGOs are equal partners to the state. The bottom up approach should be supported by the government at all levels. Persistent attacks on nonprofit organizations, women's and human rights defenders have to be tackled in order for sustainable development.

Our recommendation is to provide more resources to support projects with collective impact.

- Specifically the progress in SDG number 5 is still slow. The Czech government (national and local) does not implement and accept gender equality as an important priority and very often lacks gender perspective (also due to low representations of women in the decision making positions) and overlooks the negative impact of covid-19 on gender equality that affects significantly more women.

The recommendation is to promote gender mainstreaming on all levels - political, economical and social.

- Ratification of the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, known as the Istanbul Convention, is an important tool for combatin violence against women and improving the Gender Equality in the Czech Republic.

Recommendation: To support the ratification and promote the real impact of the convention linked to sustainable development (SDG´s).

**We would like to ask how the government plans to take into account these recommendations.**

**Thank you for your attention.**