



**Information relating to the implementation of the Resolution A/RES/72/234
on ‘Women in development’ adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017**

Referring to the Resolution A/RES/72/234 on ‘Women in development’ adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017 (hereinafter referred to as the “Resolution”), the Czech Republic reports to have implemented the following measures at the national level:

In accordance with paragraph 5 of the Resolution, which reaffirms the commitment to adopting and strengthening legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs introduced an amendment to the Act No. 155/1995 Coll., on pension insurance. The amendment, which has ensured a faster valorisation of the bottom-level pensions and thus improved the situation of women who were at risk of income poverty, entered into force on 1 January 2019. As of January 2019, the base assessment was raised from 9 per cent to 10 per cent of the average wage, and the pension benefits of pensioners over 85 years of age were increased by CZK 1,000 per month.

In accordance with paragraph 5 of the Resolution, which reiterates the need for gender mainstreaming, the Czech Republic reports that gender focal points have been established within all ministries since 2005. The role of gender focal points is to oversee gender equality agenda and implement gender mainstreaming within their given ministry. In 2018, in order to unify the role of gender focal points, the Office of the Government issued the Position of Resort Coordinators on Gender Equality Standard, which establishes the placement of gender focal points within the resort structure, their duties and powers, and the qualifications and requirements for the position.

In accordance with paragraph 6 of the Resolution, which stresses the importance of undertaking a gender analysis of legislation, policies and programmes, the Department of Gender Equality, the national gender equality coordinating body, undertook an analysis of the materials presented to the government in early 2018. The analysis uncovered that the Methodology on Gender Impact Assessment for Materials Presented to the Czech Government was insufficiently utilised, and the impact on women and men was inadequately considered in a large proportion of the materials. Based on the findings, the Department of Gender Equality launched a series of training for state officials on gender impact assessment in 2018. Three training seminars run by an expert on gender impact assessment are planned to be held every year until 2020.

In accordance with paragraphs 10 and 26 of the Resolution, which call for the work-life reconciliation and provision of the childcare services, the Czech Republic reports that children’s groups, informal childcare facilities for children from 1 year of age, have been established in the Czech Republic under the Act No. 247/2014 Coll., on the provision of childcare in children’s groups. The number of registered children’s groups is continually growing – as of February 2019, almost 900 children’s groups were registered in the Czech Republic, providing care for approximately 14,500 children.

As per the aforementioned paragraphs of the Resolution, a new paternity leave entitlement also came into effect in the Czech Republic in February 2018. The entitlement, which was passed as an amendment to the Act No. 187/2006 Coll., on sickness insurance, allows fathers to take a 7-day leave at any time in the six weeks following the birth, adoption or fostering of the child. Fathers may claim up to 70 per cent of their salary for the duration of the leave. In 2018, 43,442 requests for the paternity leave entitlement were delivered to the Czech Social Security

The Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

Department of Gender Equality



Administration while 114,036 children were born in the Czech Republic during the same period. Therefore, approximately 38 per cent of eligible fathers claimed the leave in the first year of its implementation.

Furthermore, the Czech Republic adopted another amendment to the Act No. 187/2006 Coll., on sickness insurance, in June 2018, which has widened the scope of family member care benefits by introducing a long-term care entitlement. Thanks to the amendment, a person, who cannot carry out their work due to looking after a family member, is warranted a leave of up to 90 days. For every day spent out of work, the recipient is entitled to 60 per cent of their daily assessment base, which is calculated using the applicant's average earnings over the past twelve months.

In accordance with paragraph 12 of the Resolution, which recognises the critical role of agricultural development and rural women, the Czech Republic implemented a local small scale project in India, which focused on training local young girls in tailoring and machine embroidery with the aim of enhancing their qualification and thus improving their livelihood and social security. The project was developed together with the villagers concerned. The project budget was 16,538 EUR, of which 15,700 EUR was allocated funding from the Czech Republic Official Development Assistance.

In accordance with paragraph 14 of the Resolution, which stresses the need to take action to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence, the Czech Republic reports that Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic and Gender-based Violence for 2015 – 2018 was being implemented throughout the monitored period, and the subsequent Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic and Gender-based Violence for 2019 – 2022 was drafted and adopted by the Czech government. The new action plan comprises of 26 measures divided into 3 strategic areas: the domestic and gender-based violence prevention; the protection and support of victims of domestic and gender-based violence (including children); and the provision of access to justice for all persons threatened by domestic and gender-based violence.

In accordance with paragraph 32 of the Resolution, which reaffirms the commitment to women's equal rights and opportunities in political and economic decision-making, the Czech Republic implemented the Action Plan for Balanced Representation of Women and Men in Decision-making Positions for 2016 – 2018 during the monitored period. The action plan set out 35 measures to improve women's access to power and decision-making positions. Among the greatest successes of the Balanced Representation Action Plan 2016 – 2018 were the gender audits of central bodies of state administration, the implementation of gender-sensitive advertising, the formation of gender-balanced selection commissions, and the adoption of the Conception of the Family Policy of the Czech Republic.

In accordance with paragraph 33 of the Resolution, which encourages Member States to pursue policies of preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in workplace, a survey on the prevalence of sexual harassment at ministries was carried out in 2017 and 2018. Based on the findings, the Department of Gender Equality has drafted a handbook on the prevention of sexual violence in workplace, which is to be published in 2019.

In accordance with paragraph 41 of the Resolution, which recognises the special needs of women and girls living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies, the Czech Republic supported the Basic and Emergency Health Care for Mother and Child in Mosul project, which focused on internally displaced women and returnees in Iraq, who were provided prenatal, birth natal and postnatal assistance. The project also included urgent care and

The Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

Department of Gender Equality



assistance for girls and women affected by gender-based violence. 4.9 million CZK was allocated from the Czech Republic Official Development Assistance. In 2018, the Czech Republic also supported the implementation of the Myanmar: Strengthen Resilience of Crisis Affected Communities in Rakhine State project, which focuses on supporting displaced women and girls in their engagement in education, farming and DDR community-based activities. 5 million CZK was allocated to the project from the Czech Republic Official Development Assistance.

In accordance with paragraph 50 of the Resolution, which encourages Member States to strengthen dedicated units for gender equality and the empowerment of women, the Czech Republic reports that the gender equality agenda was transferred to the Prime Minister in July 2018, and the position the Government Commissioner for Human Rights was re-established. Hence, the agenda is currently being coordinated by the Government Commissioner for Human Rights and presented to the government by the Prime Minister. Before the transfer, the agenda was overseen by the Minister of Justice, which raised concerns within the non-profit non-governmental sector that the human rights and equal opportunities agenda would no longer remain independent. The transfer has not only mitigated these concerns but also emphasised the cross-sectional character of the gender equality agenda.