



Summit for Democracy Commitments by the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic welcomes the Summit for Democracy process, our common endeavour to strengthen democracy and support human rights around the world. We are pleased to contribute with the following commitments.

Free and fair elections are the foundation of democracy and a critical component of political freedom.

We therefore pledge to:

introduce mail-in voting as an additional option for citizens abroad to participate in elections.

- further strengthen resilience mechanisms in order to protect the integrity of elections against new hybrid threats such as disinformation campaigns, both at the domestic and the international level.
- continue to send election observers on international missions and, as part of the follow-up, use their recommendations in dialogues with the respective countries.
- play a leading role in international fora such as the UN Human Rights Council in promoting the issue of widest possible participation in political and public affairs.

Support for civil society and human rights defenders has long been the cornerstone of the Czech foreign policy.

We therefore pledge to:

- speak out consistently in support of civil society, push back against the shrinking of civic space and provide practical and moral support to human rights defenders.
- promote accountability for human rights violations, including through strengthening targeted restrictive measures.
- increase funding to civil society and human rights defenders through the Transition Promotion Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- provide financial contributions to Lifeline Embattled CSO Assistance Fund.
- establish a National Human Rights Institution to promote and monitor the effective implementation of international human rights standards and foster cooperation with civil society organisations at the national level in line with Paris Principles.

Media freedom is a crucial component of democracy.

We therefore pledge to:

- ensure independence of Czech public media through sustainable financing and protection from political influence.
- support independent journalists and other engaged voices, both online and offline, by speaking out on their behalf and by providing the necessary practical support such as visa facilitation.
- continue close cooperation with independent media outlets such as Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, including by providing funding for Vaclav Havel and Jiri Dienstbier Journalism Fellowship Programs which aim to support aspiring independent journalists in the Eastern Partnership countries, Russia, and Western Balkans.
- strengthen our engagement in the Media Freedom Coalition by becoming a member of the Executive Group.
- provide financial contributions to UNESCO Global Media Defence Fund and the Digital Defenders Partnership programme initiated by the Freedom Online Coalition.

Fight against corruption must remain a top priority.

We therefore pledge to:

- further implement conflict-of-interest and anti-corruption measures.

submit the Bill on Protection of Whistle-blowers to the Parliament to establish an efficient protection of whistle-blowers.

- introduce a Government Strategy for Fighting Corruption for 2023 – 2027 as a crucial component of the anti-corruption framework.
- adopt the sixth National Action Plan of the Open Government Partnership initiative to further promote transparency and efficacy.