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The Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 5 December 2012

Enclosure: 1 page

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
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Response of the Czech Republic to the letter of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding discrimination against women in nationality-related matters

As an introduction, we would like to state that the Czech legislation governing acquisition and loss of citizenship of the Czech Republic is fully based on the principle of equality between men and women, that is, it does not contain any provisions that would discriminate against based on gender.

In response to question 1, we state the following:

In the Czech legal system, marriage between a Czech citizen and a foreigner does not automatically have any impact on acquisition or loss of the citizenship of the Czech Republic.

Similarly, divorce or any other termination of marriage does not have any impact on the Czech citizenship.

For the sake of completeness, let us add that the existence of marriage between a person applying for the Czech citizenship and a citizen of the Czech Republic is taken into account in the proceedings for obtaining the Czech citizenship, where the minimal period of 5 years of legal permanent residence in the Czech Republic may be reduced.

In response to question 2, we state the following:

Acquisition of the Czech citizenship by children at birth is primarily based on the *ius sanguinis* principle – i.e. a child acquires the Czech citizenship by birth if at least one of his/her parents is a Czech citizen on the date of birth. It is irrelevant whether the other parent (be it father or mother) is a citizen of the Czech Republic or not. The gender of the child does not play any role either (children acquire the citizenship without any distinction based on gender).

In response to question 3, we state the following:

As it has been already stated above, the legal system of the Czech Republic fully respects equality between men and women, including in matters of the acquisition and loss of the citizenship. In line with the constitutional prohibition of gender discrimination, the legislation of the Czech Republic does not contain any provisions that would define the requirements for acquisition or loss of citizenship for men differently from those for women.

In the same way, the Czech legislation is based on the principle of prevention of occurrence of statelessness. This principle is most importantly reflected in the provision that governs the acquisition of the citizenship of the Czech Republic by a child born in the Czech territory, where both his/her parents are stateless persons and at least one of them has a legal permanent residence in the territory of the Czech Republic - such a child, regardless of his/her gender, will automatically acquire the citizenship of the Czech Republic. The principle of prevention of occurrence of statelessness is also contained in the legislation governing the loss of the Czech citizenship, where the Czech legal system does not permit a loss of the Czech citizenship, if in result the person would become stateless.