**Access to the information regarding climate change – Czech Republic**

Access to information about climate change in EU states, including the Czech Republic, is generally robust, supported by a combination of legal frameworks, public policies, and initiatives aimed at promoting transparency and public awareness. Access to information about climate change in the Czech Republic aligns with broader EU standards and regulations but also features specific national efforts. These efforts ensure that the public, stakeholders, and policymakers have access to the necessary information to effectively address climate change.

The approach to fulfilling its obligations under the Paris Agreement is embedded in a combination of national policies, strategies, and legal frameworks. These measures ensure the country not only meets its international commitments but also enhances transparency, public participation, and accountability in climate action. This integrated approach aligns with the broader EU framework and supports global efforts to combat climate change. Aaccess to information is an important aspect reflected in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement which is publicly available. The Czech Republic, as part of the European Union, incorporates transparency and public access to information within its NDC framework.

In the Czech Republic, public access to climate-related information is ensured through various state bodies and platforms, including the Ministry of the Environment, Czech Hydrometeorological Institute (ČHMÚ), and Czech Environmental Information Agency (CENIA). Key legislative frameworks such as the Environmental Information Act and the Act on Trading in Greenhouse Gas Emission Allowances mandate transparency and public access to data, complemented by public consultations and reports like the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP). Comprehensive information can be accessed via the Environmental Information System (EIS), the ČHMÚ’s online portal, and the Climate-ADAPT platform.

1. *What kind of information should be collected and shared to identify and prevent negative impacts on human rights arising from climate change and climate change response measures? What kind of information can be particularly challenging to access and why?*

CZ: To identify and prevent negative impacts on human rights from climate change, it's essential to collect and share comprehensive climate impact data. Vulnerability assessments should highlight how different groups, particularly the vulnerable ones, are affected. Human rights impact assessments are needed to document how climate change and response measures affect rights such as access to water, food, health, and housing. Detailed information on mitigation and respective adaptation strategies should be shared. Collecting socioeconomic data of all sorts is essential. Accessing detailed and specific data on vulnerable groups, private sector impacts, long-term climate studies and privacy-protected information can be challenging due to privacy concerns, resource limitations, logistical barriers, and overly strict regulatory restrictions.

1. *Are existing approaches to collect, share and monitor information on climate change and human rights sufficient for the public to assess the magnitude of actual and potential negative impacts on their human rights, and the adequacy of States’ responses to these risks? How can these approaches be improved?*

CZ: The Czech Republic actively contributes to international efforts to understand and address climate change impacts by submitting detailed reports to organizations like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These reports adhere to UNFCCC guidelines and cover various aspects of climate change, including emissions data, adaptation measures, and financial contributions. As an integral part of the European Union, the Czech Republic coordinates its activities with other member states to maximize synergistic effects and ensure a unified approach to addressing climate change impacts. Except for the technical and political negotiations and ambitious target oriented approach, this coordination facilitates also the sharing of best practices, resources, and data among European countries, enhancing the collective capacity to understand and respond to climate challenges. These collective efforts position the European Union and its member states, including the Czech Republic, as world leaders in addressing climate change impacts and promoting human rights. Representatives from EU states continuously share best practices and actively advocate for the integration of high human rights standards in negotiated agreements. Through ongoing collaboration and knowledge sharing, the EU and its member states demonstrate a steadfast commitment to advancing both climate action and human rights on the international stage.

1. *Are there undue barriers to obtain access to information on human rights and climate change that is up to date? (e.g., language and technical accessibility, use of technology, grounds for non-disclosure, other?)*

CZ: High standards for ensuring access to the relevant information applies on both topics, human rights and climate change alike. Czech Republic has high standards for access to information reflecting its commitments towards EU legislation, Aarhus Convention or Paris Agreement. Relevant information is regularly shared in a predictable schedule and accessible form. When a request for environmental information arises, the specific national office determines whether the criteria for application of the Act On the Right to Information in Environmental Matters (123/1998 Sb.) are met, or if the general legal framework outlined in the Act On Free Access to Information (106/1999 Sb.) applies. If the criteria for the environmental law are fulfilled, the request must be prioritized and processed with greater urgency compared to other information requests falling under general information laws. The threshold for formal admissibility is notably accommodating to requesters, as it allows for a wide range of formats to be considered acceptable.

Challenges for the public administration may arise if the requested information, e.g. extensive data on weather development, appears to serve individual or public interests but is actually intended to benefit a profit-making organization using an individual as an intermediary. To address the demands of highly specialized work, creating an accessible raw database could be a suitable solution.

1. *Are there examples in which international cooperation effectively supported public access to information on climate change and human rights? What are the challenges in implementing UNFCCC Articles 4 (public access to information) and 6 (public awareness), and Paris Agreement Article 12 (public access to information), and other international instruments and processes that can support/contribute to international cooperation on access to information on climate change and human rights?*

CZ: By addressing challenges and leveraging international instruments and processes, countries can enhance cooperation and collaboration to ensure better public access to information on climate change and human rights, ultimately advancing global efforts towards sustainability and justice. Effective international cooperation of access on environment, apart from the publicly available NDC under the UNFCCC framework, is for example initiative of Global Environmental Facility (GEF) which have facilitated knowledge sharing and capacity building among countries, improving public access to information on climate change and human rights or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promote a holistic approach to sustainable development, emphasizing the importance of access to information and public participation in environmental governance.

1. *Are there concrete examples of, or specific challenges for business to communicate information on risks, including in different countries, in relation to climate change and human rights? What are the barriers for the rights holders to access to this information and to evaluate the adequacy of an enterprise’s response to these risks? Are there specific examples of State regulation that have significantly improved access to information held by private actors on climate change and human rights?*

CZ: The EU Non-Financial Reporting Directive requires large companies to report on environmental and social impacts, including climate change and human rights considerations, enhancing public access to information held by private actors. By addressing these challenges and implementing regulations that promote transparency and accountability, both businesses and states can contribute to better communication of climate change and human rights risks, enabling stakeholders to evaluate and respond effectively to these critical issues.

1. *What are the impacts on human rights of inadequate access to information from public authorities and/or business? Are there concrete examples of, or specific challenges in, collecting and sharing information on disproportionate levels of actual and potential harm from climate change and climate change response measures (disaggregated data on Indigenous Peoples, women, children, local communities, persons with disabilities, older persons, persons living in extreme poverty, others)?*

CZ: Inadequate access to information from public authorities and businesses can hinder individuals' ability to make informed decisions about their rights, leading to potential violations. Lack of transparency can impede accountability and oversight, allowing abuses to go unnoticed and unaddressed.