

Thank you for the floor, Mr. President,

The Czech Republic has supported the process of negotiating the Convention and is happy to be able to name it as an exquisite example of negotiations where all the delegations during the 4 years proved their good will to focus on the human rights substance and disregard political differences among us.

Moreover, we are proud that the process stayed at all its stages open to the civil society and fully inclusive to persons with disabilities.

I would like to thank particularly both the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, ambassador Don Mackay, and High Commissioner for HR Ms. Arbour for their extraordinary support and work endeavoured to this Convention.

It is my honour to announce that the Czech Republic is ready to sign both the instruments - the Convention and its Optional Protocol, and will do its utmost to ratify them as soon as possible.

Ms. Arbour,

While we speak of all the positive contributions we believe implementation of this Convention and its Protocol will bring, you probably have more realistic, day-to-day affairs picture of life of the new Convention in your head.

Having the burden and experience of supporting the treaty bodies here in Geneva, could you please elaborate on what the entry of this Convention into force and subsequent creation of the new monitoring Committee will mean for the work of your Office? How big a burden do you expect it to be?

Thank you for your attention.