The Delegation from Represented by

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**Position Paper for the LEGAL council**

The Czech Republic, strives to fulfill its responsibilities to the United Nations by being a dedicated and conscientious contributor to the core issues at hand. The issues before the Council of LEGAL are the legality of euthanasia worldwide and the ethics behind the legalization of assisted suicide.

**1.The legalization of euthanasia worldwide**

The legality of assisted suicide have been discussed and rejected by the government. Although passive forms of euthanasia are legal such as refusal of treatment or the end of life support, active types of euthanasia such as voluntary and physician assisted suicides have been illegal because of the first sentence of the 6th article of the Czech constitution of 1993and the 144th article of the criminal code of the Czech republic the 6th article states that Everyone has the right to live. Human life is worthy of protection even before birth and this right shall not be infringed. The 144th article states that Whoever encourages another person to commit suicide or assists another person in committing suicide, shall be sentenced, if at least an attempted suicide occurred, to imprisonment for up to three years. Because of this the parliamentary efforts to legalize active euthanasia have been rejected in 2008, 2016 and 2020 by the government and the upper house.

**2. The ethics behind assisted suicide**

The ethics behind assisted suicide has been discussed for a long time but as the Czech Republic we reject assisted suicide because of the articles stated above and the ethics behind it firstly Alternative treatments are available, such as palliative care and hospices. The patient should not be killed to suppress the symptoms. Nearly all pain can be relieved. Secondly legalizing the right to voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide could lead to non-voluntary and involuntary euthanasia, by giving doctors the power to decide when a patient’s life is not worth living, In the Netherlands in 1990 around 1,000 patients were killed without their request. Thirdly the control of assisted suicide would be near impossible Reports from the Netherlands, where euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide are legal, reveal that doctors do not always report it. And lastly The assumption that patients should have a right to die would impose on doctors a duty to kill, thus restricting the autonomy of the doctor. Also, a ‘right to die’ for some people might well become a ‘duty to die’ by others, particularly those who are vulnerable or dependent upon others.