

Statement of the Republic of Albania on the UPR of Malta

Thank you Mr. President,

Albania warmly welcomes the second UPR of Malta and its achievements with regard to Human Rights agenda.

We applaud Malta's broad legal coverage of all aspects of Civil, Political, Economic, Cultural and all other rights, which are inherent in a country with a long tradition of democracy and democratic beliefs.

We look with satisfaction Malta's commitment to fully address human rights issues for the most vulnerable people by establishing a number of National Commissions and other institutions which provide effective protection for all citizens. *To this end, we note the positive steps of the new government administration towards the enhancement of LGBT community rights.*

Albania considers the amendment of the Maltese Civil Code brought forth by the Act XIV which introduced divorce as a legal remedy, as a major achievement with regard to Women's freedom and legitimate rights. The amendment of the "Equality for Men and Women Act" and the launching of the respective National Commission's "Unlocking the Female Potential" project, are also important actions to enhance, promote and protect Women's rights.

Wishing Malta all the best in its future endeavours, Albania would like to make the following recommendations:

- 1. Raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 years old both for boys and girls;
- 2. Ratify the OP-CEDAW.

Thank you Mr. President