

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
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MALTA

Mister President,

Cyprus wishes to thank the Hon. Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties, Mrs. Helena Dalli, and her delegation for the presentation of the Maltese National Report and cordially welcome them to this UPR session.

My delegation acknowledges the work carried out by Malta with regard to the recommendations from its last review cycle and the overall improvement of its human rights situation and track record. This, unmistakably, demonstrates Malta's strong commitment to human rights.

We commend the ratification by Malta of a number of international human rights instruments, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as the pertinent Optional Protocol, and the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, to name but a few.

Having carefully looked into the Maltese National Report, Cyprus would kindly request the delegation of Malta to give us a first assessment of the extension of the remit of the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality to, *inter alia*, cover equal treatment on the grounds of gender and family responsibilities and gender identity in employment. Moreover, is there any information available as to the results of the project that has been undertaken with the aim of improving access to employment and enhancing the participation of women in the labour market?

Cyprus would like to make the following recommendation:

- Even though the number of women elected in local and national elections is gradually growing, female participation in Maltese politics remains relatively low. Malta is, therefore, urged, to consider ways by which participation of women in political life, both in terms of absolute numbers but also in terms of quality of participation, be further increased.

I thank you Mister President.