



Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt

**The Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Seventeenth Session**

Review of Malta

(Geneva, 3rd of October 2013)

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Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the delegation of Malta led by H.E. Minister Dalli to the 2nd Cycle of the UPR.

Since the first cycle Malta has displayed a commendable level of consistent commitment towards further promotion of human rights. We welcome Malta's ratification of CRPD and CRC's optional protocol on the sale of children and child prostitution and pornography, and take positive note of the package of important legislations enacted during the review period particularly on freedom of information, legal assistance, and protection of minors.

Egypt applauds the commitment of the Maltese Government towards protecting the right to life, and supports its firm position against the imposition of any obligations that fall outside the framework of its respective legal obligations and incompatible with the cultural, social, and religious determinants of its society.

On the other hand, as we take note of the significant efforts exerted in the area of protecting the rights of migrants, specially in the areas of sea rescue operations and extension of social care services, we are aware that some important challenges still exist, and we encourage Malta to continue its efforts in this regard through a human-rights based approach that targets eradicating stereotypes and profiling and any occurrences of discrimination, incitement, or violence resulting from them.

In conclusion, we recommend the following for the kind consideration of the Maltese Government:

- 1- To consider acceding to the ICRMW.
- 2- To review its migration and criminal procedure codes with a view of deleting the provisions allowing for detaining non-accompanied children.
- 3- To provide, in accordance with its obligations under international human rights law instruments, effective protection for the family as the fundamental and natural unit of society.
- 4- Continuing to carry out awareness programs for children and adolescents against substance abuse.

I thank you.
