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Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations
Human Rights Council – 17th Session of the Universal Periodical Review
Geneva, 30th October 2013
MALTA

Mr President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of Malta led by H.E. the Hon. Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties.

My delegation praises Malta's significant achievements, including the passage of legislation to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, the ratification of international Conventions, and the extension of a standing invitation to all Special Rapporteurs to visit the Islands.

While the situation in correctional facilities and in detention centres and the legal situation of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have improved, some challenges remain.

Over the years Malta has saved lives by rescuing migrants, asylum seekers and other uprooted people in their effort to reach Europe, as well as by upholding the right to life for unborn children. Motivated by its respect for the dignity and human rights of children, Malta has developed special programs that aim to increase prenatal and postnatal health care.

My Delegation wishes to present the following recommendations for consideration by the Government of Malta:

- To continue its fight against any form of violence against children, women, migrants, and persons with disabilities.
- To maintain protection of the right to life from conception to natural death.
- To sustain its policy that recognizes the family, based on the stable relationship between a man and a woman, as the natural and fundamental unit of society.
- To further implement legislation and policies that protect and promote the health, legal, social, educational, economic and labour rights of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

Thank you Mr President.