**44th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Burkina Faso – 6 November 2023**

Statement by H.E. Christopher Grima, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the UN in Geneva

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Mr. President,

Malta welcomes the delegation of Burkina Faso to this UPR session and thanks them for the national report. We consider the joint launch between the government and OHCHR in August 2023 of a new "*Framework for Consultation, Monitoring and Early Warning of Cases of Alleged Human Rights Violations and Abuses in the Fight against Terrorism*" as a positive step to strengthen implementation of human rights standards in the country.

Malta would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Effectively implement Law No. 039 of 17 June 2017 on human rights defenders to ensure their safety and security.
2. Implement necessary measures to ensure that all allegations of ill-treatment are fully investigated in line with the Convention Against Torture, and perpetrators brought to justice including those instances occurring during counter-terrorism operations.
3. Take steps to reform the national legal and regulatory framework on combating trafficking in persons into line with international standards.
4. Ensure that adequate and child-friendly programmes are accessible to all survivors of rape and other forms of sexual violence.

We wish Burkina Faso a successful UPR session.

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