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

**Cameroon – 14 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 Cameroon to this UPR Session and thanks them for the national report. We positively note that since the last UPR review, Cameroon has implemented several initiatives that had a positive effect in the country. The Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CDHC) has identified five priority areas, including those relating to gender equality and the protection of children, and persons with disabilities. Malta also welcomes Cameroon’s efforts to implement universal health coverage, and reinforcing the national plan with greater focus on HIV/AIDS that includes key population groups such LGBTIQ+ persons.

Malta makes the following recommendations:

1. Abolish the death penalty in all its instances and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR without reservations.
2. Strengthen training of police and other security and law enforcement structures to combat harassment of LGBTIQ+.
3. Conduct prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of crimes under domestic law and human rights violations committed by all armed forces in the context of the armed violence in the North-West and South-West regions.

Thank you.

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