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

**Russian Federation – 13 November 2023**

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

*Check against delivery*

Mr. President,

Malta takes note of the Russian Federation’s national report presented to this UPR session. Malta remains seriously concerned about the vectored deterioration of human rights implementation in the Russian Federation. Legislation enacted over the past years has severely restricted civil society space and installed restrictions on the ability of Russian citizens to enjoy their rights in full in line with Russia’s international obligations.

Malta makes the following recommendations:

1. Repeal all legislation that restricts functioning of civil society organisations and human rights defenders, including the “foreign agents” and “undesirable organisations” laws.
2. Repeal all homophobic and transphobic legislation, including penalization of “propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations and (or) preferences, sex change” and a ban on legal gender recognition and gender-affirming interventions.
3. Repeal laws adopted contrary to international law that establish domestic legal obstacles for the execution of the judgments delivered by the European Court of Human Rights.
4. Repeal laws that criminalize freedom of expression, including criticism of actions by the Russian state beyond its borders.

Thank you.

Time limit: 1 minute