**UPR45 – Senegal**

**22nd January 2024**

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

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

Malta welcomes the Delegation of Senegal to this UPR Session. We positively note that Senegal is party to nine core human rights treaties, and that it has abolished the death penalty through national legislation. Adoption in 2022 of the National Strategy 2022-2026 and a National Action Plan 2022-2030 aimed at eliminating female genital mutilation (FGM) by 2030 is a welcome development. We also note that significant challenges remain in particular relating to the rights of women and those of children.

Malta would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aimed at abolishing the death penalty.
2. Enact the Children’s Code which has been finalised for a number of years and ensure its provisions are in line with international legal norms and principles.
3. Enforce existing legislation and, where necessary, enact new laws, to protect women from FGM practices and early forced marriage.
4. Revoke Article 319 of the Penal Code that criminalises consensual same-sex relations, and enact legislation to provide full protections to LGBTIQ+ persons from violence.

Thank you.