**UPR46 – Afghanistan**

**29th April 2024**

Statement by 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 Afghanistan to this UPR session. The human rights situation in has greatly deteriorated since the take-over by the Taliban in August 2021, particularly on women’s rights where the current authorities’ legislation has eliminated women from all aspects of public life including the most basic such as health services and education. Afghanistan’s state obligations under international covenants remains, irrespective of the composition of government.

Malta would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Repeal all legislation that violates international standards guaranteeing women and girls their human rights.
2. Repeal legislation at the national and local level that impede women and girls right to an education.
3. Ensure that all women and members of minority communities are guaranteed access to assistance, including humanitarian assistance.
4. Ensure compliance with international standards on the right to a fair trial – in accordance with the UDHR and the ICCPR– including by providing access to lawyers of the defendant’s choice.

Thank you, Mr. President.