**UPR46 – Cambodia**

**8th May 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 the Cambodia to this UPR session. Malta acknowledges that progress has been registered in the provision of health services in the country, and access to clean water supplies, electricity and other civic amenities.

Malta remains concerned on the frequency of crack downs on independent media, civil society organizations and political opposition. Similarly, freedom of association has come under threat, particularly with the use of police arresting and harassing protestors and striking workers at various instances throughout the period under review. Human trafficking is also an issue which deserves serious attention and policies to combat and eliminate its frequency.

Malta would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
2. Take steps to fully investigate allegations of torture and ill-treatment occurring in police custody and in other places of detention, which in some cases had resulted in death.
3. Introduce legal safeguards to protect freedom of expression and association, including for civil society.

Thank you, Mr. President.