**UPR46 – Cyprus**

**30th 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 warmly welcomes the delegation of Cyprus to this UPR session. We welcome Cyprus’ solid ratification of international human rights conventions and instruments, as well as the consistent endeavor to further improve implementation of Cyprus’s human rights obligations.

We commend Cyprus for enacting Law (No. 39(I)/2023), banning so-called conversion practices and any form of conversion ‘therapies’ aimed at changing or suppressing a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity or expression; and for adopting a National Strategy and National Action Plan on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women for 2023-2028.

Malta would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Consider enacting legislation to recognize the marriages of same-sex couples that have been legally performed abroad.
2. To enhance the rights of persons with disabilities by adopting a uniform definition of “disabilities” across the legislative framework to limit the effect of legal inconsistencies.
3. Conclude the legislative process to adopt the new Legal Gender Recognition Bill currently under consideration.

We wish Cyprus a successful review session.

Thank you, Mr. President.