**UPR46 – Dominican Republic**

**7th 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 Dominican Republic to this UPR session. Malta acknowledges that progress has been registered in protection of women’s rights and in countering domestic violence particularly with the adoption of the National Action Plan on Violence Against Women in 2020.

Malta is concerned that despite renewed efforts, the national education system remains severely underfunded leading to a deterioration in educational facilities and programs.

Malta would like to recommend the following:

1. Introduce the necessary reforms and resources to ensure proper functioning of the educational system at all levels.
2. Facilitate and introduce information campaigns to ensure that all children born in the country are registered at birth.
3. Take necessary steps to combat child-labour and other forms of child exploitation, particularly within the tourism industry.
4. Enhance police training on handling of detainees, and promptly investigate all allegations of ill treatment during interrogations by state security and police forces.

Thank you, Mr. President.