**UPR46 – Eritrea**

**6th 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 Eritrea to this UPR session.

Malta is concerned with the situation of human rights in the country, particularly with worrying reports of intimidation, attacks and arbitrary detention amounting to enforced disappearance of journalists, political dissidents and members of religious communities.

The Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Eritrea stated in his last report in 2023 that there were no signs of progress in the human rights situation in the country during the reporting period. On the contrary, in recent years, the Special Rapporteur has observed a deterioration in a number of areas.

Malta would like to recommend the following:

1. Ratify the Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance
2. Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
3. Amend legislation in force governing mandatory military service to introduce limitations in its duration and not be of indefinite term.
4. Introduce a specific legal definition of “discrimination against women” based on international standards in all appropriate legislation.
5. Introduce legislation to permanently abolish the death penalty.
6. Ensure that all security and paramilitary forces in the country are held accountable for their actions, and promptly investigate all allegations of ill treatment, torture or disappearance.

Thank you, Mr. President.