**UPR46 – Slovakia**

**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 warmly welcomes the delegation of Slovakia to this UPR session. Slovakia is party to most international human rights conventions and instruments that provide for a solid framework of protections for citizens. We commend Slovakia’s continued engagement with the HRC and its active participation therein.

Malta welcomes Slovakia’s ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in July 2023.

Malta would like to present the following recommendations:

1. Consider decriminalising defamation law and to incorporate it into the civil code.
2. Consider introducing legislation that permits civil partnerships between same-sex persons.
3. Consider amending the Criminal Code to include domestic violence as a category of violent crime and raise the punishment for intimate partner violence and femicide.

We wish Slovakia a successful review session.

Thank you, Mr. President.