**37th session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Austria**

**22 January 2021**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Christopher Grima,**

**Permanent Representative**

Thank you, President

Malta warmly welcomes the delegation of Austria and we congratulate them on the progress achieved since the last review.

Malta recommends the following:

1. Prohibit any practice that modifies a person’s sex characteristics without irrefutable medical reasons and the full and informed consent of the person affected;
2. Ensure survivors of sexual and domestic violence have unrestricted access to shelters and provide adequate resources to survivors’ support services;
3. Work towards guaranteeing access to legal gender recognition for intersex, transgender and non-binary people to all six current existing options of gender markers, without any barriers, based on self-identification;
4. Continue efforts to substantially increase the ODA funding for gender equality programmes.

We wish Austria a successful review.

Thank you.