**Statement by Malta at the 42nd Session of the Universal Periodic Review – Ghana – 24 January 2023**

Intervention by H.E. Christopher Grima, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malta to the UN

*Check against delivery*

Malta warmly welcomes the delegation of Ghana and thanks it for the presentation of the national report.

Malta would like to make the following recommendations:

* Encourage Ghana to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.
* Encourage Ghana to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
* Consider repealing section 104 (1)(b) of the Criminal Offences Act 1960 (Act 29) and introduce legal provisions that protect all persons from violence, discrimination and stigma in all instances, including on matters relating to sexual orientation and gender identity.
* Encourage Ghana to sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty

We wish the delegation of Ghana a successful review session.