**Statement by Malta at the 42nd Session of the Universal Periodic Review – Japan – 31 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 Japan and thanks it for the presentation of the national report. Malta would like to make the following recommendations:

* Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
* Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the Abolition of the Death Penalty.
* Consider enacting legislation to protect LGBTI persons against arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, including unauthorised disclosure of their sexual orientation and gender identity by third parties.

We wish the delegation of Japan a successful review session.