**43rd Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Romania – 2 May 2023**

Statement by H.E. Christopher Grima, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the UN in Geneva

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Mr. President,

Malta warmly welcomes the delegation of Romania to this session of the Universal Periodic Review.

We welcome Romania’s engagement with the HRC and the Human Rights Treaty Bodies, as well as its current role as an HRC elected member. Romania’s ongoing consideration to ratify pending Optional Protocols to Human Rights Treaties will further strengthen its implementation of international standards when completed.

Malta welcomes Romania’s recent adoption of the three Justice laws that will further strengthen the independence and effectiveness of the judicial system. As Romania’s national report illustrates, initiatives and programs on various aspects of human rights have been undertaken since the last UPR review, including on police training, adopting a national strategy to prevent and combat sexual violence, and the ongoing process of educational reforms that also address school drop-outs.

Malta would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Consider strengthening national support mechanisms to women and girls victims of sexual and domestic violence including access to justice.
2. Consider introducing legislation to officially recognise same-sex relationships and to enhance legal protections to LGBTIQ+ persons.
3. Strengthen national mechanisms to address inequalities in the healthcare system, particularly for marginalised, rural, and disadvantaged persons.

We wish Romania a successful UPR session.