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

**Montenegro – 8 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 welcomes the delegation of Montenegro to this session of the Universal Periodic Review.

We welcome Montenegro’s ratification of Protocol No. 16 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, further strengthening Montenegro’s implementation of human rights standards. Montenegro’s national report includes various national strategies that have been implemented since the last review, including the Strategy for the Development of the Social Protection System for the Elderly People 2018-2022 that has strengthened day-care services for adults and elderly people with disabilities; as well as the strategy of Women's Entrepreneurship 2021-2024 focusing on overcoming structural, economic and infrastructural barriers for further improvement of women's entrepreneurship.

Malta would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Consider enhancing complaints procedures where claims of torture and ill-treatment are made, to be promptly investigated by an independent body and, if perpetrators found guilty, ensure accountability and justice to victims.
2. Consider national education campaigns to combat gender-selective abortion practices that have resulted in a gender imbalance in the population.
3. Publish statistics, updated annually, on domestic violence cases, disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity, age, and socio-economic status.

We wish Montenegro a successful UPR session.