

*Permanent Mission of Italy to the*

*International Organizations in Geneva*

*Check against delivery*

**UPR 31 – Malta**

**14 November 2018**

**Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Ernesto Massimo Bellelli, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Italy welcomes the distinguished delegation of Malta and thanks it for the national report and today presentation.

Italy commends the commitment of Malta to the UPR and progress made since the last cycle, particularly with reference to the ratification of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, also known as Istanbul Convention.

Italy also commends all efforts to eradicate gender discrimination through awareness raising campaigns in the education field as well as initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality in employment.

Upholding of rights and dignity of persons with disability favoring their empowerment through equal opportunities is also a positive achievement that needs to be stressed.

Italy seizes this occasion to present the following recommendation:

* *Consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*

We wish Malta a successful review.

I thank you.