**32nd session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Viet Nam**

**Statement by Mr. Roberto Pace**

**First Secretary**

Thank you, Mr President.

Malta welcomes the delegation of Viet Nam and thanks it for the presentation of its national report. Malta takes positive note of the strides the Government of Viet Nam did with respect to freedom of religion or belief and economic, social and cultural rights as well as the protection of vulnerable groups.

Against this backdrop, Malta would like to recommend to the Government of Viet Nam the following:

1. Take further steps to ensure the protection of all vulnerable groups in society, including LGBTI persons;
2. Continue with measures aimed at fully implementing the recent law on Freedom of Religion or Belief in order to guarantee its effectiveness.

We wish the delegation of Viet Nam a successful review.

I thank you.