**33rd session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Albania**

**6 May 2019**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Christopher Grima**

Thank you, Madam Vice President,

Malta welcomes the delegation of Albania and thanks it for the presentation of its national report. We particularly welcome the progress Albania has made since the second cycle and its efforts to increase safeguards against violations related to domestic and gender-based violence, child protection and exploitation, LGBTI persons and persons with disabilities.

In this context, Malta would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of Albania:

1. Increase funds so that newly established mechanisms, such as the *Child Rights Protection and Promotion Section* can function effectively;
2. Consider enacting legislation that promotes the elimination of blood feuds and vendettas;
3. Consider amending the Family Law to provide legal recognition of same-sex partnerships and adopt legal provisions that will allow legal gender recognition to transgender individuals.

We wish the delegation of Albania a successful review.

I thank you.