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

**Review of the Democratic Republic of Congo**

**7 May 2019**

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

Thank you, Mr. President,

Malta welcomes the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Congo and thanks it for the presentation of its national report. We have taken good note of the Government’s efforts to improve the human rights situation in the country and commend its decision to prioritise child protection by ratifying several international instruments.

In this context, Malta would like to recommend to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo the following:

1. Ensure the effective implementation of Law No. 09/001 of 10 January 2009 on the protection of children, with a view to establish the National Council of Children as soon as possible;
2. Ensure the enforcement of existing norms on children accused of witchcraft to guarantee that perpetrators who commit offences against children are brought to justice;
3. Take measures to reintegrate young mothers back into the education system.

We wish the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Congo a successful review.

I thank you.