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

**Review of Portugal**

**8 May 2019**

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

Thank you, Madam Vice President,

Malta warmly welcomes the delegation of Portugal and thanks it for the presentation of its national report. Malta commends the Government of Portugal’s efforts to improve the situation of gender equality and women’s rights, particularly through the adoption of the *National Equality and Non-Discrimination Strategy*.

In this respect, we welcome the progress made in addressing domestic violence, especially with regard to its data collection, complaint mechanisms, access to protection, the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators, as well as the impact of economic difficulties on families.

Against this backdrop, Malta would like to recommend to Portugal the following:

1. Continue allocating adequate funding to combat violence against women;
2. Take further measures to promote women’s participation in political affairs, for instance by increasing the threshold of the “Parity Law” to 50% and apply it equally to lists, outcomes and the whole national territory.

We wish the delegation of Portugal a successful review.

I thank you.