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

**Review of Brunei Darussalam**

**10 May 2019**

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

Thank you, Mr. Vice President,

Malta welcomes the delegation of Brunei Darussalam and thanks it for the presentation of its national report. We would like to refer to the second phase of the Syariah Penal Code which came into effect on 3 April 2019 and the provisions that define adultery and consensual same-sex relationships as criminal offences punishable by cruel, inhuman and degrading punishments, including stoning, whipping and amputation.

We have taken due note of the Government’s response to the Joint Communication from the Special Procedures of 1 April 2019, and the subsequent statement of the Sultan.

Against this backdrop, Malta recommends to the Government of Brunei the following:

* Consider alternatives to the current Penal Code which enshrines in legislation cruel and inhuman punishments such as the application of the death penalty for offences such as rape, sodomy, extramarital sexual relations, among other offences.

We wish the delegation of Brunei Darussalam a successful review.

I thank you.