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

**Review of Costa Rica**

**13 May 2019**

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

**Permanent Representative**

Thank you, Madam Vice President.

Malta welcomes the delegation of Costa Rica and thanks it for the presentation of its national report. Malta takes positive note of the strides the Government of Costa Rica has made in the context of sustainable development, particularly with the publication of the National Plan for Development and Public Investment and the Strategic Plan for Decarbonisation. We also take note of the government’s efforts to improve the protection of children and adolescents as well as LGBTI persons.

In this context, Malta would like to recommend to the Government of Costa Rica the following:

1. Make available funding aimed at raising social mobilisation against the sexual exploitation of children, especially with a focus on the need to report such offences;
2. Disaggregate data based on sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics with a view to understand clearly the situation of LGBTI persons;
3. Work towards ending protocols that aim to ‘normalise’ intersex bodies through harmful and medical practices including non-consensual surgeries.

We wish the delegation of Costa Rica a successful review.

I thank you.