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

**Review of Nicaragua**

**15 May 2019**

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

**Permanent Representative**

Thank you, Madam Vice President.

Malta welcomes the delegation of Nicaragua and thanks it for the presentation of its national report. We have taken good note of the challenges the government has faced since the developments of April 2018 but are concerned at the violent acts against students and civilians as well as the legal status of civil society and journalists’ organisations.

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

1. Take measures to prevent the violation of human rights of children and adolescents, particularly the right to life, health, participation and freedom of association;
2. Release without delay LGBTI persons in detention after the events of April 2018 and guarantee dignified conditions for LGBTI persons arrested and detained for other reasons;
3. Improve the census methodology to have quantitative and qualitative data on the LGBTI population, as an essential basis for inclusive and human rights-based public policies.

We wish the delegation of Nicaragua a successful review.

I thank you.