**35th session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Spain**

**22 January 2020**

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

**Permanent Representative**

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

Malta warmly welcomes the delegation of Spain and thanks it for the presentation of its national report. We commend the progress that Spain has achieved since its 2nd review cycle while fully cognisant of the caretaker Governments it had during that period.

Against this backdrop, we recommend the following:

1. Consider reviewing the definition of torture and enforced disappearances to bring it in line with international instruments;
2. Consider adopting a new and comprehensive legal framework to guarantee equal access to health care for all people living in Spain, without discrimination;
3. Provide effective training to the judicial bodies in charge of investigating cases of gender-based violence, in line with existing laws, and evaluate their operation to identify and encourage best practices and ensure accountability in cases of lack of due diligence.

We wish the delegation of Spain a successful review session.

Thank you.