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

**Review of Lao People’s Democratic Republic**

**21 January 2020**

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

**Permanent Representative**

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

Malta welcomes the delegation of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and thanks it for the presentation of its national report. We commend the progress that the state under review has achieved since its 2nd review cycle and the implementation of the recommendations it received.

We particularly welcome the state’s cooperation with the UN’s Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures, the measures it instituted to improve freedom of expression and association, as well as its efforts aimed at safeguarding rights of women and family protection.

In this context, Malta would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Consider abolishing the death penalty for all crimes in all circumstances;
2. Continue taking measures to improve investigations into cases of enforced disappearances;
3. Continue taking steps to improve the rights of LGBTI persons particularly by identifying their needs and consider involving LGBTI representatives in decision-making processes.

We wish the delegation of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic a successful review session.

Thank you.