**36th session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Croatia**

**10 November 2020**

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

**Permanent Representative**

Thank you, President

Malta warmly welcomes the delegation of Croatia and thanks it for the presentation of its national report. We commend the progress achieved since its second cycle. In particular, we welcome the considerable steps taken by Croatia in combating violence against women, including domestic violence, and the adoption of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Anti-Discrimination Plan which includes the prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Malta would like to recommend to Croatia the following:

1. Continue to expand training on gender equality and gender-based violence for police officials, civil servants and court officials to enhance their common understanding of applicable international and EU standards and ensure their consistent application across sectors;
2. Increase efforts to raise awareness of the human rights of LGBT persons;
3. Encourage more resources to fund free legal aid providers across the country.

We wish the delegation of Croatia a successful review session.

Thank you.