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

**Review of Maldives**

**4 November 2020**

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

**Permanent Representative**

Thank you, President

Malta welcomes the delegation of the Maldives and thanks it for the presentation of is national report. We particularly welcome the ratification of the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Gender Equality Act.

Malta would like to recommend to the Government of the Maldives the following:

1. Continue its efforts towards judicial reform to restore public trust in the integrity and independence of the judicial system;
2. Encourage the full implementation of the Domestic Violence Prevention National Action Plan;
3. Work towards creating an enabling environment where individuals can freely exercise their right to freedom of expression and association.

We wish the delegation of Maldives a successful review session.

Thank you.