



THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UN GENEVA

HRC 52 – Item 4 - Interactive Dialogue on the OHCHR Report on the Human Rights situation in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 Presidential Elections and its aftermath

22 March 2023

Statement by H.E. Christopher Grima, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the UN and Other International Organisations in Geneva

Check against delivery

Thank you, Mr. President,

Malta aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and thanks the High Commissioner for the report.

Malta remains deeply concerned by the suppression and persecution of the political opposition, media workers and civil society in Belarus, including imprisonment of opposition leaders. Arbitrary arrests detention and torture have also continued unabated and have become an increasingly frequent form of oppression by state institutions. Perpetrators continue to enjoy absolute impunity.

We join the HC in calling on Belarus to promptly initiate independent, impartial, effective and transparent investigations into all past violations of human rights, in particular those that meet the benchmark as crimes under international law. In addition, we call for swift accountability for the crimes committed and for Belarus to adhere to its human rights obligations.

Finally, we reiterate our call on the Belarusian authorities to fully cooperate with the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, and other Special Procedures mandate holders, including by providing them with access to the country.

Thank You.