



HRC52 Item 3 – ID with the Special Rapporteur on Disabilities – 13 March 2023

Statement by Mrs. Emily Tufigno, Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the UN

Check against delivery

Thank you, Mr. President,

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

I wish to thank Special Rapporteur Quinn for the report presented outlining his vision on how services in our societies can be re-imagined, in order to enable persons with disabilities to live independent lives.

A multi-stakeholder approach is truly needed in order to ensure that mind-set in relation to the provision of services to persons with disability is changed from one leading to dependency, to one leading to agency, and active participation in society.

Indeed, over the past years, Malta has taken various initiatives to support the moral agency and autonomy of persons with disabilities, including through Malta's first Independent Living Centre, opened back in 2012.

Malta had also introduced a legal amendment whereby employers with a staff complement of more than 20 employees would need to ensure that persons with disabilities make up at least 2% of their workforce, in order for persons with disabilities have more opportunities to be part of the workforces and to be their own breadwinners.

The report refers to the need to strike a balance between the provision of formal support, as well as informal care.

Recognising the struggle in achieving this balance, what recommendations would the Special Rapporteur have for states in this regard?

Thank you.