



THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UN GENEVA

Statement by Malta at the 42nd Session of the Universal Periodic Review – Benin – 26 January 2023

Intervention by Mr. Bernard Charles Mifsud, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Malta to the UN and Other International Organisations

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Malta welcomes the delegation of Benin and thanks it for the presentation of the national report. Malta commends Benin on its acceptance of the inquiry procedure of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Malta would like to make the following recommendations:

- Take steps to outlaw all discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual characteristics, and to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to prosecute perpetrators.
- Strengthen national mechanisms to combat the sale of children for forced labour and to fully implement the provisions of the Labour Code concerning child labour.
- Consider reviewing the provisions in the Criminal Code and Act No. 2017-20 of 20 April 2018 (Digital Code) relating to gatherings and disseminating false information to ensure human rights defenders can work freely.

We wish the delegation of Benin a successful review session.