



THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UN GENEVA

Statement by Malta at the 42nd Session of the Universal Periodic Review – Switzerland – 27 January 2023

Intervention by H.E. Christopher Grima, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malta to the UN

Check against delivery

Malta welcomes the delegation of Switzerland and thanks it for the presentation of the national report. Malta commends Switzerland's consistent engagement on human rights issues, as well as its ratification of the Istanbul Convention in 2017. Malta would like to make the following recommendations:

- Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- Consider explicitly prohibiting non-emergency, invasive and irreversible surgery, or treatments with harmful effects on infants and children with variations in sex characteristics and ensure that these surgeries or treatments are postponed until the children can meaningfully participate in decision making and give their informed consent.
- Consider revising the Federal Act on Police Measures to Combat Terrorism to bring it into line with children's rights standards to ensure that children as young as 12 years of age are not charged under its provisions.

We wish the delegation of Switzerland a successful review session.