



32nd session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Meli-Daudey
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta in Vienna

[CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY]

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Representatives of Civil Society,

Madame Chair,

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union on behalf of its member states, including our unwavering solidarity with Ukraine and in condemnation of Russia's unprovoked and unjustifiable military aggression. I would like to make a few additional remarks in my national capacity.

Madame Chair,

We welcome the convening of the 32nd session of the Commission, and particularly the focus of our thematic discussions tomorrow on the amelioration of criminal justice systems to promote and safeguard access to justice.

This has been the subject of recent rigorous efforts of the Government of Malta, most recently through the presentation of a number of criminal justice reform proposals, which are based on recommendations by, and consultations with, the European Union and the Council of Europe. These measures seek to improve criminal justice proceedings in Malta, to build the capacity of the administrative infrastructure, furnish the courts with further resources; and provide stronger support to criminal justice



actors, victims of crime, and to the general public. These reform efforts are currently open for public consultation, to provide all relevant expert stakeholders and criminal justice actors, as well as civil society organizations with the opportunity to engage in this democratic process

These reforms also form part of a broader reform process championed by the Government of Malta which has included the launching of a Transformation Strategy by the Malta Police Force to enhance legitimacy and efficiency; an unprecedented increase in the allocation of resources into this sector to enhance the capacity of the infrastructure and all key actors in performing their functions; and the implementation of procedural and structural reforms to strengthen the separation of powers and safeguard rule of law.

Madame Chair,

In the context of this 20th anniversary since the UN Convention against Corruption came into effect, allow me to reaffirm Malta unrelenting commitment to the transnational efforts to curb corruption and money-laundering. Sweeping measures have been introduced in Malta to this effect, based on the recommendations of the Venice Commission and the Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO) – two international bodies which have since acknowledged and commended the progress made by Malta and the positive outcomes achieved. We are keen to discuss these developments and initiatives at the forthcoming Conference of the Parties in Atlanta, Georgia, later this year. We are also proud to be the first country to invest in the UNODC's GRACE initiative: a collaboration which will soon begin to reap benefits as GRACE tools are rolled-out and incorporated in national school syllabi, at the primary level. We have committed to championing this initiative because we believe



that education is the ultimate tool at our disposal to change the mentality - which fuels a culture of impunity, enabling the perpetration of crimes of corruption, to detriment of society as a whole

Madame Chair,

Malta's recently intensified efforts to combat trafficking in human beings are also a testament to our multilateral approach. Our cooperation with the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the UNODC and all relevant actors have enabled the Malta Human Rights Directorate (HRD) to launch the National Action Plan on Human Trafficking, an Anti-Human Trafficking Inter-Ministerial Committee, and awareness-raising campaigns, including the Blue Heart Campaign.

Our cooperative efforts on issues of national priority have also facilitated concrete action to address Gender-Based Violence. Malta has become a true proponent of this concerted effort to achieve SDG 5, by passing legislation that explicitly addresses femicide in our national Criminal Code last year. We are also eager to strengthen our prevention efforts, by identifying gaps in the system and improving response. In this regard, I am pleased to invite you to join us at the side-event that we are organizing with the support of Sweden, the United Kingdom, the UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch and the UNODC Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Section, on *Preventing Gender-Related Killing through Comprehensive Multi-Stakeholder Reviews and Better Statistical Data*, which will be held tomorrow at 14:10hrs.

Thank you.

* * *