

Statement in Explanation of Position by H.E. Mr. Saviour F. Borg,  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations,  
at the Closing Plenary of the Forty-Fourth Session of the UN Commission  
on Population and Development - Friday, 15th April 2011

Mr Chair,

My delegation would like to take the floor in explanation of position  
with regard to the Resolution that has just been adopted by this  
Commission.

Malta appreciates and welcomes the introduction of new para OP4. At the  
same time my delegation would still like to register its reservation on  
the use of terms such as 'sexual and reproductive rights, commodities  
or services', and on language relating to sexual and reproductive  
health and rights, contained in the just adopted resolution.

The national legislation of Malta considers the termination of  
pregnancy through procedures of induced abortion as illegal, and does  
not recognise abortion as a measure of family planning.

Malta is committed to the overall goal of the resolution. However,  
consistent with its national legislation, Malta would like to reiterate  
its reservations with respect to those provisions in the resolution  
that directly or indirectly relate to induced abortions.

I would request that this statement, including our reservations, be  
included fully in the records of this meeting.

Thank you.