

MALTA



**Statement by Mr. Bernard Charles Mifsud,
First Secretary
Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations**

Explanation of Position

**Commission on Population and Development - Forty-sixth Session)
"New trends in migration: demographic aspects"**

Friday, 26 April 2013

United Nations, New York

Mr. Chairman,

My Delegation would like to thank you, Ambassador, for your tireless efforts as Chairman of this Session of the Commission, as well as thank the facilitator, Ambassador Eduardo Jose Atienza De Vega, for facilitating our negotiations.

My delegation aligns itself with the Explanation of Position delivered by the European Union on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is taking the floor in explanation of position with regard to specific issues included in the Resolution just adopted by this Commission.

Malta, as a country directly affected by migration, acknowledges the high importance of the theme of migration under consideration at this year's Commission. We also acknowledge that this Commission has an important role to play in the migration debate.

It is for this reason that my delegation is disappointed that, yet again, instead of focussing on the theme selected for the 46th Session of this Commission, the resolution just adopted contains issues and terminology that are well known for their controversial nature, and that we consider as external to the core debate on migration.

My delegation would 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 in the resolution just adopted by this Commission.

The national legislation of Malta, under Chapter IX of the Laws of Malta, articles 241 to 243A, considers the termination of pregnancy through procedures of induced abortion as illegal, and does not recognise abortion as a measure of family planning.

Consistent with this legislation, Malta would like to reiterate its reservation with respect to those provisions in the Resolution just adopted 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 and reports of this meeting.

Thank you.