

**Statement in Explanation of Position by H.E. Mr. Christopher Grima, Ambassador
and Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, at the Closing
Plenary of the Forty-Fifth Session of the UN Commission on Population and
Development – Friday, 27th April 2012**

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 is committed to the overall goal of this resolution in addressing many of the challenges being faced by adolescents and youth. My delegation would nevertheless 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 resolution we have just adopted.

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.

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.