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INTERNATIONALE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE (OIF).*

## **25<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

### **Oral intervention on the Universal Periodic Review of Malta**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2014**

**Speaker: Mr. Mewail Tesfamariam**

Thank you Mr. President,

Mr. President please allow me to welcome the delegation of The Republic of Malta to this morning's dialogue on the second cycle of the country review.

RADDHO would like to also congratulate Malta for its implementation of the previous UPR recommendations and its ratification of some international human rights instruments.

Our organization positively notes Malta's effort to consult with the civil society and other stakeholders that emanated from the recommendations of its 2009 review by this council.

RADDHO however remains acutely concerned by the in humane treatment of African asylum seekers and migrants in Malta, particularly regarding the detention policy of migrants who seek protection under international norms. In this regard, we regret Malta's decision not to sign the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and the Members of their Families in full conformity with international standards.

Mr. President, we urge the Maltese authorities to fully ensure that the rights of asylum seekers and migrants are protected, and the unacceptable conditions of detention must be addressed urgently. In addition, Malta must improve the detention conditions and minimize the duration of detention of asylum seekers. We also call on Malta, in line with its international obligations, to exert its utmost efforts in creating a conducive environment for all asylum seekers and migrants in its territory and those reaching its shores.

We therefore, invite the Maltese government to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and the Members of Their Families, and to intensify its efforts to curtail the development of racism and xenophobia in the country.

In conclusion Mr. President, we wish to express our hope that the Maltese government will continue to engage with the Human Rights Council and the Civil Society, in order to build close relationship towards the betterment of its human rights record.

I thank you Mr. President,