

REPUBLIC OF MALTA



CEDAW: half-day discussion on girls' and women's right to Education

Palais des Nations, Geneva

Monday, 7th July 2014

Chair,

Malta believes that female and male students should enjoy the same conditions for career and vocational guidance for access to studies and for certification in the different areas of education. According to *Malta in Figures 2013* of the National Statistics Office, Malta 2013, of the 10,367 persons in tertiary education during 2010/2011, 4,301 were male (41.5%) and 6,075 were female (58.5%). Academic post-secondary was followed by 2,694 males (45%) and 3,289 females (55%). Across the different sections of education, schools in Malta follow the same curricula leading to the same examinations. Qualifications of teaching staff are the same across the board. During the scholastic year 2013-2014, a pilot project in co-education was launched at secondary level in state schools. The scholastic year 2014-2015 will see the introduction of co-education in all secondary state colleges.

Malta believes that male and female students should be given the same opportunities to benefit from scholarships and other study grants, and access to programmes of continuing education. The Maltese Government has just launched a strategic plan for the prevention of school leaving in Malta. This plan aims at facilitating focused action that will enable students to develop their potential as human beings as citizens and as stakeholders in the economy. Furthermore the Maltese government is also supporting teenage mothers to stay in education and training. This service supports pregnant teenage students either by providing counselling while students keep attending compulsory school, or by providing a full-time programme at the Service's centre for students who opt out of compulsory mainstream school. The students are encouraged either to continue their education by going back to compulsory students or to further their education in post-secondary schools. Males and females also have equal opportunities to participate actively in sports and physical education. In Malta, there is open access to specific educational information to help to ensure the health and well-being of families, including information and advice on family planning. The introduction of free childcare and paternal leave has further increased the opportunities for females to continue working and to further their studies.

Thank you.