Draft National Statement to be Delivered by Minister Jose Herrera at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, COP22 in Marrakech

Mr/ Madame President of the COP

Honourable Ministers, Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentleman

Merhba,

I feel particularly honoured to participate at this COP22 in Marrakech. I thank the Moroccan authorities for their impeccable organisation, warm hospitality and their keen determination to remind us that this COP is a unique opportunity to walk the talk. In Paris, we collectively managed to make history by agreeing on an ambitious legally-binding agreement, applicable to all States. In Marrakech, we have the responsibility to maintain the momentum and through the same spirit of compromise, transparency and inclusiveness that characterized our days in Paris, we now pass on to the harder phase, namely the implementation phase.

Malta is proud to announce that we have ratified the Paris Agreement and therefore remained on the forefront in implementing climate action on a global level, within the European Union and at the domestic level. Malta's determination to switch to a low carbon economy is characterized by a vision, based on the long-term, socio-economic, and environmental benefits of greenhouse gas emissions reduction. Malta had to overcome significant challenges to meet its greenhouse gas objectives especially as we are committed to ambitious and robust legal targets with other EU Member States. We remain committed to forge ahead and to identify any possible opportunities that aim for further reductions. Malta's opportunities emerging within the Energy Sector are being fully capitalized to reduce emissions. As the energy generation sector is by far Malta's highest contributor to national Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, these measures are leading to excellent results.

Like other EU Member States we have experienced the decoupling of economic and emissions growth. Since 1990 to date, our GDP has grown by 260%, yet our GHG emissions per unit GDP have decreased. We experienced a reduction of 22% in emissions intensity throughout the time period 2004 – 2014 alone. Malta's GHG per/capita in 2014 stood at 7.8 tonnes of CO_2 equivalent and is thus even below EU average. Due to significant infrastructural investments we managed a reduction of 33% in energy use in 2015 as compared to 2010. The introduction of new policies and measures in electricity generation included the installation of new and efficient energy generating capacity to replace inefficient plants; a submarine electrical connection to the European grid and the switch to the use of natural gas instead of Heavy Fuel Oil. Malta's National Energy Efficiency Action Plan and the National Renewable Energy Action Plan outline the drive to increase energy efficiency, particularly from an end-use perspective, and the promotion of renewable energy sources as the major steps that have been and will be taken. We

introduced energy demand efficiency measures, as well as incentives for Photo Voltaic (PV) installations for the domestic, commercial and industrial sectors.

Low emission policies and measures in other sectors include the introduction of autogas, the promotion of biodiesel use; a public transport reform and modal shift and the promotion of the use of electric vehicles. In the Agriculture, Waste and Land Use sectors we are pursuing the modernization of agricultural holdings; the implementation of a nitrates action programme; the capping and extraction of gases from managed landfills; as well as the setting up biological and wastewater treatment plants.

Malta is also undertaking commitments in its mitigation and adaptation policies through the implementation of a Climate Action Act which ensures that legal measures for all sectors will be under pinned to set up the required institutional capacity to monitor, review and verify our reduction targets and adaptation measures, secure better climate governance and ensure the necessary forward planning.

With respect to Climate Finance, as an EU Member State, Malta remains committed to the efforts that the EU undertakes in its contributions to climate action to financially and technically support developing countries through the EU budget and the mobilization of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Malta is proud to recall that as part of its climate finance commitment, it is providing technical support as capacity building in human resources to States most vulnerable to climate change. By

- Offering nationals from these States, fully funded scholarships in specialized studies related to climate action at the University of Malta; and
- Providing assistance and training at a policy making, vocational and institutional level.

In conclusion, given Malta's minute size, our lacking economies of scale, a population density that is amongst the highest in the world, as well as our peripheral geophysical position, our determination to address greenhouse gas emissions and reduce them, are met with innumerable challenges. In our endeavours, however we have definitely committed to exploring the benefits of a low carbon economy with the aspiration to look as far into the future as 2050 in our strategic planning.

In the end, it is ensuring the wellbeing of our people that is at stake and greenhouse gas reduction definitely marks a step in this direction. It also consolidates our commitment, notwithstanding our small size, to address a global challenge that is a common concern of humankind.

Shukran Mr/Madam Chair