Madam President, Excellencies,

The Order of Malta would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for her excellent report (A/HRC/43/40) on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, which highlights the scale and development of this scourge, which is aggravated by poverty and armed conflict and often by the use of information and communication technologies (ICT). Her report opened new perspectives for all actors in the fight against trafficking in persons. The Order of Malta is mindful to the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur. It wishes to adapt its action to strengthen its awareness-raising and prevention efforts to protect child victims of exploitation, through its multilateral and bilateral diplomatic network, its National Associations and its world humanitarian organization "Malteser International".

The Sovereign Order of Malta wishes to continue the dialogue with the Special Rapporteur and other stakeholders, including faith-based organizations, the business and academic communities, in order to optimize our best practices to contribute to the better protection and rehabilitation of child victims of contemporary slavery.

The Order of Malta continues its work to prevent and combat trafficking in persons by participating in actions and campaigns to raise public awareness, by organizing an online training course for helpers - for the moment available in English, soon in French and Spanish - and by contributing to the protection and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking, as well as to the strengthening of the international criminal prosecution of trafficking as a crime against humanity.

Thank you.