



**Draft General Comment on Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – Right to life**

Malta would like to thank the Rapporteur for circulating General Comment No. 36 on article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, on the right to life. We welcome the focus on the protection of life of all human beings, and the emphasis on life being a fundamental right. In this spirit, we wish to provide some remarks on paragraph 9 and underline that Malta's position in this regard is that any recommendation made regarding legal restrictions on the ability of women to seek abortion should not in any way create obligations on any party to consider abortion as a legitimate form of reproductive health rights, services or commodities. Malta believes that any discussions on rights and services in connection with reproductive health cannot take place outside the framework of one of the most fundamental of human rights – the right to life.