

SPEECH BY H.E. MARIE LOUISE COLEIRO PRECA, PRESIDENT OF MALTA AT THE OFFICIAL LUNCH HOSTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF CHILE ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA

18 JULY 2017

Excellencies

Dear friends

Let me once again take this opportunity to thank Her Excellency, President Michelle Bachelet, for inviting me to Chile.

Let me thank you, Your Excellency, for inviting me to your beautiful country.

Our fruitful deliberations this morning have given me much confidence in the future, to strengthen the relations between our governments and our peoples, in various areas of mutual interest.

Malta looks forward to new opportunities to deepen the friendships among our diverse communities, for the benefit of all the individuals and families in our societies.

Let me also take the opportunity to say I am proud that both our nations share certain fundamental values.

Namely, we both take pride in our commitment to the importance of peace, of democratic participation, and of social

solidarity, all of which are essential, to ensure a dignified life for our citizens.

Let me, therefore, encourage our governments to continue to build stronger partnerships between the business, cultural, and social communities of Malta and Chile.

In this way, we shall contribute towards sustainable peace and equitable prosperity, for all the peoples of our nations.

We must use all the tools at our disposal, including diplomacy through tourism, through education, through culture, and other opportunities, to encourage person-to-person contact between our peoples.

In this way, by working together, we shall be making active efforts towards achieving peace, prosperity, and wellbeing for all.

I am confident that our efforts will create a better future for both our present and future generations.