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## **PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER**

### ***Speaker signs agreement in support of free hydrotherapy services for Disability Card holders***

The agreement, signed under the auspices of the Speaker Dr Anġlu Farrugia and the Chinese Embassy in Malta, will support the provision of free hydrotherapeutic services for Disability Card Holders through Inspire Foundation. The initiative will be financed by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Malta through the Ambassador's Fund.

The three parties reaffirmed their shared commitment towards social inclusion, community support, and improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities in Malta. The agreement also establishes a framework for the implementation, monitoring, and oversight of the project to ensure transparency and accountability throughout its execution.

Speaking on the occasion, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia highlighted that this initiative represents a tangible example of how parliamentary diplomacy can serve as a catalyst for cooperation between international partners and local civil society organisations. Through dialogue and collaboration, parliamentary diplomacy can help facilitate projects that directly benefit Maltese communities and strengthen the important work carried out by local NGOs.

The agreement further reflects the strong and friendly relations between Malta and the People's Republic of China, while recognising the valuable contribution of Inspire Foundation in providing essential support services within the Maltese society.

The agreement was signed by the Speaker, Dr Anġlu Farrugia, Dr Zhang Zuo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Malta, and Mr Antonello Gauci, Chief Executive Officer of Inspire Foundation Malta.