



## UN General Assembly, International, Impartial, Independent Mechanism for Syria (IIIM), 25 April 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Mr Adam Kuymizakis  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

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Madam Vice President,

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and wishes to add a few remarks within its national capacity.

I begin by thanking Judge Marchi-Uhel, Head of the Triple I-M for Syria, for her briefing on the ninth report today. I also thank her and her team for their invaluable work.

On 15 March, we marked the twelfth year since the beginning of the war in Syria. We remembered the brutal repression by the Syrian regime following the protests of the Syrian population legitimately demanding political change. Since then, countless lives have been lost. Men, women, and children disappeared, and families torn apart by this horrific conflict which continues to this day.

Malta commends the Triple I-M for its tireless efforts in investigating and documenting the most serious international crimes committed in Syria since March 2011. We acknowledge the significant progress made by the Mechanism in facilitating inclusive justice for victims and survivors, as



detailed in its latest report. We also recognise the importance of its broader justice objectives, including clarifying the fate of missing persons.

In this respect, we reaffirm our support for the Triple I-M alongside other UN bodies established for the purpose of accountability in Syria, such as the Commission of Inquiry and the OPCW Investigation and Identification Team. The Mechanism's extensive cooperation with national jurisdictions, civil society organisations, and international partners has also proven crucial in sharing evidence, analysis, and best practices to support accountability efforts.

We applaud the commitment to a victim/survivor-centred approach, including through dedicated thematic strategies on gender, children, and youth, which ensures the voices of those affected by these heinous crimes are heard and respected.

In this regard, we encourage the Mechanism to be responsive to the needs of all individuals affected by the conflict, including LGBTIQ+ persons, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

We acknowledge the Triple I-M's advancements in structural investigation and its central repository. Both are essential components in identifying potential cases for prosecution. This work has been instrumental in helping competent jurisdictions pursue justice for the victims of the Syrian conflict.



Furthermore, its efforts in operational support are to be commended. We recognise the importance of collaboration with other UN and non-UN entities in facilitating witness protection and support.

The Mechanism's recommendations for cooperation with the United Nations, international organisations, Member States, and civil society should be supported to ensure it is able to fulfil its mandate and maximise its impact.

Madam Vice President,

In conclusion, Malta calls on all Member States and relevant stakeholders to continue supporting the Mechanism and its vital work, through its Strategic Plan for 2023-2025. This will be a step in the right direction in bringing perpetrators to justice and providing a voice for the victims and survivors of the Syrian conflict.

Together, we must stand firm in our commitment to assisting the Mechanism in this pursuit of justice and accountability for the most serious crimes committed in Syria.

We need to do our utmost to bring about to a just and lasting peace in the country, and prevent future violations.

I thank you.