



## Security Council Briefing on UNAMI, 18 May 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Darren Camilleri,  
Political Coordinator, of Malta to the United Nations, New York

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Thank you President, and I begin by thanking Special Representative Hennis-Plasschaert for sharing your valuable insights with us.

Malta is encouraged by the Government of Iraq's commitment to building a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Iraq. We strongly support the Government's reform agenda that seeks to tackle corruption, improve public services, diversify the economy, and address the needs of vulnerable groups.

In this regard, we reiterate our call for the expeditious passing of the federal budget to ensure that the Government can implement its ambitious programme for the benefit of all Iraqis.

Inclusive political, oversight and electoral processes are vital elements for a peaceful and stable democratic environment. UNAMI's efforts to promote the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women at all levels of the judiciary, and in provincial council elections, are critical.

In addition, while we commend the first payments made to Yazidi Female Survivors, we urge that the additional requirements imposed on survivors to submit criminal complaints be revoked.



On the political front, we welcome the recent steps taken by the Federal and the Kurdistan Regional Governments to address several outstanding issues, including the Kurdistan government's commitment to holding regional parliamentary elections in November.

We also welcome the Federal Government's intent to hold provincial council elections before the end of 2023. It is essential to ensure that the Independent High Electoral Commission retains its independence and is provided with an adequate budget and timeframe to organise the elections.

President

We commend the positive role played by Iraq in the region. In particular, we welcome its diplomatic efforts to advance stability, including through its engagement and facilitation of dialogue with regional partners.

We call on all States, particularly neighbouring countries, to respect and support Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and democratic political process. Respect for these principles is essential for enhancing regional stability.



We also stress the need to fight terrorism and recurring Daesh attacks in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights law, and express our steadfast support for UNITAD.

Malta emphasises the importance of respecting human rights and democratic principles. We welcome the commencement of the selection process for a new Board of Commissioners for the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights. We also welcome the government's signing of an action plan to prevent the recruitment and use of children by the Popular Mobilization forces.

Nevertheless, we are deeply concerned by the 22 grave violations committed against children, the 61 civilian casualties documented by UNAMI, and the high incidence of these casualties caused by explosive remnants of war.

President

Malta stresses the importance of addressing climate and security in Iraq, the fifth most affected country by climate change. We recognise the government of Iraq's efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change. We echo the Secretary-General's call for increased international and regional efforts on addressing the challenge of water scarcity and its gender dimensions.



While welcoming an improvement in the overall humanitarian situation, we take note of the recent report from the UN humanitarian country team in country which stated that nearly one million internally displaced and recently returned Iraqis remain in acute need of humanitarian assistance.

Voluntary return of IDPs to areas of origin remain slow due to a lack of basic services, limited livelihood opportunities, and safety concerns. Despite this, we continue to see the unilateral closure of IDP camps by the Government. This causes negative humanitarian consequences and we reiterate our call that the return of internally displaced persons must be safe, voluntary, dignified, and consensual.

We also note with concern the challenges that food security poses in Iraq and urge regional and international partners to ensure that the World Food Programme remains equipped to continue its support in the country.

In conclusion, we offer our steadfast support for the efforts of the Government of Iraq and UNAMI to advance stability, peace, and prosperity for the future of all Iraqis.

I thank you.