



THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UN NEW YORK



Malta
2023-2024

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL

Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on NEPAD

21 July 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Ms. Francesca Cassar

Africa, Economic and Development Coordinator of Malta to the UN, New York

Thank you, Moderator,

Malta is a strong partner of Africa's continued development, fully recognising the continent's yielding opportunities and the intrinsic value that socio-economic considerations have in promoting long-term social cohesion, peace, stability and also prosperity for its people.

In line with the New Partnership for Africa's Development is Malta's Strategy for Africa, titled 'Malta and Africa: A Strategy for Partnership 2020 – 2025', focusing on a three-pronged approach – trade, development and diplomacy.

Increased business-to-business contact through Malta-based enterprises in Africa, the sharing of best development practices, and pursuing a wider diplomatic strategy towards growth, dignity and empowerment of Africa form the essence of this strategy. These are a testament of Malta's continued cooperation with African countries and the African Union.



When sustainable investments are facilitated, entire communities can be uplifted from financial poverty and re-joined into decision-making processes. In turn, this will boost trade facilitation, enhances Africa's export diversification, and promotes a digital-based platform. We therefore support regional efforts displayed in this regard, including through the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The contributions of youth cannot be underestimated and must be supported. Malta is deeply committed to children's right to education and everything must be done to ensure a conducive environment for children's aspirations to flourish. In this light, Malta has recently launched the 'Connected Classrooms' project, an ICT laboratory which connects Ethiopian school classrooms with Malta.

We want to take the opportunity to highlight the extensive support the European Union is providing through its Global Gateway Initiative, with at least €150 billion being invested by 2027 in sectors such as transport, education, health and energy – all sectors that fall under the scope of today's discussion.

We also support the recently renewed Cotonou Agreement which for the next 20 years will forge further pathways between the EU and Africa, as well as other regions such as the Caribbean and Pacific.



As we welcome the progress made by African countries in implementing the New Partnership, we reaffirm that development, peace and security, and human rights are mutually reinforcing. This also lies at the crux of the Peacebuilding Fund, where our national contribution to the PBF is a reflection that peacebuilding is an integral part of our multilateral project.

Let me conclude with a question to our distinguished panel speakers:

- A holistic socio-economic process is only made possible when all stakeholders are involved, including women. Empowering women has a positive multiplier on many fronts. However, significant constraints still exist, such as lack of mechanisms to finance women in small and medium enterprises in Africa. With this in mind, how we can build on capacities that respond to these gender barriers, when meeting our energy targets and financing for development?

I thank you.