



## Security Council briefing under Agenda Item 'Letter dated 13 September 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2022/688)', 21 September 2023

Malta Statement delivered by the Hon Ian Borg  
Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of Malta

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Thank you, President, and I also thank Assistant-Secretary-General Jenča for his briefing.

Malta is deeply concerned about the latest military escalation by Azerbaijan against Karabakh Armenians. This happened only a few weeks after the Security Council called for efforts to de-escalate the situation and for all sides to engage in constructive dialogue. Such acts constitute an obstacle to peace.

Malta condemns any act that endangers civilian lives. We once again call for the protection of women, children, the elderly, people with disability, and other vulnerable groups. The displacement of the local population and the destruction, casualties, and loss of life as a result of military action is deplorable. Further, we call for the urgent humanitarian support to be delivered without obstacles to those most in need.

Aggressive and dangerous rhetoric, as well as the propagation of disinformation and misinformation, will only lead to mistrust between parties. We urge both sides to refrain from engaging in such campaigns.



Following the ceasefire agreement, Malta urges for the immediate and complete cessation of hostilities, and for it to be respected. We remain firm in our belief that safeguarding the safety, rights, and wellbeing of civilians must remain the absolute priority.

Malta urges the respective parties to abstain from violence, and return to dialogue and diplomacy so as to ensure a peaceful settlement to the situation. We call on all sides to engage in good faith and to focus efforts on constructive and positive discussions, and fully support the EU's role in facilitating dialogue at all levels.

We reiterate our support to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Armenia and Azerbaijan. We once again strongly encourage all sides to commit to inclusive dialogue and negotiations towards lasting peace. We reiterate that any peace agreement between both parties must protect the rights and security of all people in the region.

I thank you.