



UNGA78 Second Committee General Debate – Malta National Statement, 2 October 2023

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

Thank you, Chair, and as this is Malta’s first statement at this session of the Second Committee, we congratulate you and your Bureau on your election. You have our full support in the conduct of your duties.

The outcomes of this year’s High-Level Week clearly reflect the need for greater momentum to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. This urgency is set against the global backdrop of the triple planetary crisis and the impacts of Russia’s illegal aggression against Ukraine. The need to bring the SDGs back on track is therefore, critical.

In the context of this year’s Second Committee theme “Building a Sustainable Recovery for All”, I would like to reiterate Malta’s full commitment to accelerate transformative action, in particular for countries that are finding it most difficult to achieve SDG progress. While significant progress has been made in achieving some



sustainable development targets, significant gaps remain, making our collective efforts even more crucial. These efforts should include providing concrete support to those most exposed to the impacts of climate change, and assisting the most vulnerable groups.

A reform of the international financial architecture, accompanied by a green transition, is also critical, and multilateral development banks have a key role to play in addressing these challenges. We call for increased support and accessibility to financing mechanisms that prioritise social sustainability and underscore the pressing need for increased financing to benefit local communities, including adequate resources for the triple transition. Supporting them to carry out these tasks has never been more vital.

We also recognise the nexus between peace and development, and therefore support addressing these issues in a holistic manner, which is critical in achieving resilience and recovery. As a member of the UN Security Council, our support to this end is unfaltering.



Chair,

Nationally, Malta is fully committed to the 2030 Agenda, with our Sustainable Development Act enshrining this commitment. We are currently finalising a Sustainable Development Strategy for 2050, outlining the government's ambitious targets in the transition towards a climate-neutral green and blue economy and sustainable urban and human development, to name a few.

Moving forward, the elements supported by this Strategy will continue to be increasingly reflected in the way that we allocate our national budget. Our focus remains on sustaining economic recovery, promoting a circular economy, combating and addressing inequalities, and reducing poverty.

Together with the European Union, the European Green Deal and the Fit-for-55% package by 2030 remain key to Malta's commitments towards achieving increased positive environment impacts. Malta will also continue harnessing its potential in being a bridge-builder in the Mediterranean in securing energy supplies.



As an island state with a history and geography intertwined with our seas, we continue to lend our unwavering support to a healthy, safe, and resilient ocean. We cannot lose sight of the importance that our oceans hold across all Sustainable Development Goals, and that without action, we will have to face dire implications.

During High-Level Week, Malta joined the momentum on marine biodiversity as one of the signatories to the BBNJ Agreement. Good ocean governance and sustainable coastal zone management are central to Malta's integrated approach to increase cooperation for sustainable development in the Mediterranean region and beyond.

This leads us to address the unique challenges facing small islands states and SIDS. Malta remains a strong supporter of addressing SIDS' vulnerabilities through the Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index, and we thank the High-Level Panel for their study in this regard. We also highlight that these vulnerabilities' can constitute existential threats, as in the case of sea-level rise. We were honoured to address this issue during our flagship Security Council Presidency Open Debate on Sea-Level Rise last February.



Access to education is another priority area if we are to collectively achieve the 2030 Agenda. This year, we have stepped-up the number of academic scholarships to students from SIDS, with the aim of equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to drive sustainable development in their own communities.

We are honoured that these scholarships were recognised and awarded the UN SIDS Partnerships Award earlier this year.

To conclude, Chair, this year's Second Committee season comes at a critical juncture. Our work this session will impact our ambition to achieve the SDGs. We look forward to engaging in negotiations which will contribute to the overall achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Let us turn the challenges we face into opportunities for partnerships, growth and resilience.

I thank you.