

## United Nations General Assembly 78th Session, Third Committee, Interactive Dialogue with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, 5 October 2023

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

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Thank you Chair,

Malta aligns itself with the statement [*to be*] delivered by the European Union.

At the outset, I thank the Special Representative for her work and today's presentation of her report. We reiterate Malta's strong support towards her mandate and Office, including as Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

Special Representative,

We share your concern about the increase in grave violations committed against children in the past year. The marked increases in recruitment and use, killing and maiming, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian assistance are especially disturbing.

We further note your worrying observation that gender, age, and disability are among the many factors contributing to the vulnerability of children to grave violations. It is equally concerning that the displacement of children significantly increases the risk of grave violations such as recruitment and use, and sexual violence, as well as forced marriage and trafficking.

In this regard, we look forward to the outcome of your Office's partnership with the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society and the SRSG on Violence



Against Children, on a model of reintegration for displaced children and young people into receiving societies. Malta believes that a more holistic approach to ending and preventing grave violations against children is needed in order to build more resilient societies and reach the sustainable development goals. The humanitarian-peace-development nexus gives us a starting point from which we can comprehensively analyse the drivers of grave violations. We further reiterate the importance of upholding the Convention on the Rights of the Child to address and prevent violations and abuses, including the need to apply an age and gender differentiation lens to measures taken to prevent conflict.

I conclude with a question to the Special Representative,

*In view of all the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda, what more can Member States do to support your mandate?*

I thank you.



**[Abridged version]**

Thank you Chair,

Malta aligns itself with the statement [*to be*] delivered by the European Union.

I reiterate Malta's strong support towards the SRSG's mandate and Office, including as Chair of the Security Council CAAC Working Group.

Special Representative,

We share your concern about the worrying increase in grave violations committed against children in the past year.

[We look forward to the outcome of your Office's partnership with the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society and the SRSG on Violence Against Children, on a model of reintegration for displaced children and young people into receiving societies.]

The humanitarian-peace-development nexus gives us a starting point from which we can holistically analyse the drivers of grave violations. We further reiterate the importance of upholding the Convention on the Rights of the Child including the need to apply an age and gender differentiation lens to measures taken to prevent conflict.

Special Representative,

*In view of all the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda, what more can Member States do to support your mandate?*

I thank you.