



## Security Council Briefing on UNAMI, 10 October 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Mr Darren Camilleri

Political Coordinator of Malta to the United Nations, New York

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Thank you, Mr President, and I also thank Special Representative Hennis-Plasschaert for sharing her insights with us. I also express our deepest condolences to the people of Iraq in the wake of the tragic fire incident on 26 September. Our thoughts are with the families affected by this devastating loss, and wish a speedy recovery to all the injured.

President

Malta is encouraged by the Government of Iraq's commitment to building a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Iraq. We continue to support the reform agenda that seeks to tackle corruption, improve public services, and develop the private sector. We trust that the passage of the federal budget law will equip the government to transform these longstanding commitments into tangible improvements for all Iraqis.

We welcome the Federal Government's intent to hold provincial council elections in December. It is essential that the Independent High Electoral Commission is provided with the necessary resources to organise them in an effective, orderly, and timely manner.

Inclusive political and electoral processes are vital elements for a peaceful and stable democratic environment. We therefore welcome the Government's decision in May to establish the Committee to Support



Women's Participation in the Provincial Council Elections, and its inclusion of measures to boost women's safe political participation in the elections.

In addition, as we commemorated on 3 August the Yazidi genocide, we highlight the importance of the 2021 Yazidi Survivors' Law. We call for its implementation at greater speed, without unnecessary obstacles. We also reaffirm our support for UNITAD's work in ensuring accountability for atrocity crimes committed by Daesh in the country. These include crimes of sexual and gender-based violence. We must also express our concern regarding the lack of adoption of a law against domestic violence.

On the political front, we welcome the constructive 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 February 2024.

We commend the positive role played by Iraq in the region. In particular, we note 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 refrain from unilateral military actions. Respect for Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and democratic political process is essential for enhancing regional stability.



Malta also stresses the importance of respecting the human rights of all persons in all their diversity, and democratic principles. In this vein, we welcome the constructive discussions between the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Government of Iraq during the High Commissioner's visit last month.

Nevertheless, we are deeply concerned by the 59 civilian casualties documented by UNAMI, the 23 grave violations committed against children, and the high incidence of these casualties caused by explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices.

In this regard, we welcome the decision of the Government of Iraq in June to allocate budgetary funding to operational demining, which is crucial to ensure sustained survey and clearance efforts.

Malta welcomes the Government of Iraq's public commitment to address, as a priority, the challenges of climate change and water scarcity. We echo the Secretary-General's call for the need to foster regional cooperation to collectively address these challenges. If left unaddressed, these climate-security challenges can exacerbate existing insecurities. Urgent assistance from the international community is, therefore, imperative.

In closing, Mr President, while welcoming an improvement in the overall humanitarian situation, we note that as of August 2023, approximately 1.15 million people remained internally displaced.



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Regrettably, funding shortfalls remain a challenge. We therefore urge the international community to remain committed to support the humanitarian and development priorities of Iraq and its people.

I thank you.