



## 78th session of the UN General Assembly, Third Committee, Interactive Dialogue with Mr. Ian FRY, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, 19 October 2023 PM

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Justine Micallef, First Secretary

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Thank you, Chair.

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and thanks Mr Fry for his presentation.

Special Rapporteur,

Climate change litigation is an important instrument to bridge the gap between international and domestic legislation, as well as climate action at the national level to address the impacts of climate change on human rights.

As your report underscores, grounding these cases on human rights not only enables litigants to hold governments and the private sector accountable, it also highlights the disproportionate impact that the failure to tackle climate change is having on groups in vulnerable situations, including young persons, women, and indigenous peoples.

You further highlight significant material and procedural barriers to undertaking decisive legal action on climate change. We commend you for the recommendations you put forward to Member States to implement measures to ensure access to the courts and provide a safe and enabling



environment in which litigants, including human rights defenders, can operate free from threats, harassment, intimidation and violence.

Developing new domestic legislation that links actions to address climate change with human rights obligations, as stipulated in the preamble of the Paris Agreement, is also paramount. We welcome your recommendations regarding the equal participation of women in all aspects of climate change decision-making as well as providing opportunities for young people and children to engage in these processes. We reaffirm the importance of women in efforts to address climate change; their full participation at all levels of policymaking and implementation is crucial.

Special Rapporteur,

As you note in your report, the impacts of climate change intersect with other factors, such as race, gender, age and socioeconomic status. However, your findings reveal that there are related aspects of intersectionality that limit access to courts. We would appreciate more insights on this matter.

I thank you.