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Malta Statement delivered by Mr. Adam Kuymizakis,
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Nations in New York

Thank you, Chair.

Malta aligns itself with the statements delivered by the European Union and the UN LGBTI Core Group.

We thank Ambassador Kamboj and the Bureau, as well as UNDESA, for preparing this year's session.

Malta stands firmly behind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which continues to guide our actions towards a sustainable future that is equitable, inclusive, socially just, resilient and green. We underscore that human rights, gender equality, social and economic inclusion are key elements of the social dimension of sustainable development. Furthermore, we are committed to strengthening social development by also promoting a non-discriminatory, human rights-based and gender-responsive approach in all our policies.



Turning to the session's priority theme, Malta emphasises that social justice is founded upon the principles of equal rights, equal treatment, and equal opportunities for all. Our commitment to social justice encompasses all economic sectors and activities, including fair wages, decent living conditions, inclusive and effective social policies. We work to further strengthen protection against all grounds of discrimination at the workplace, including sexual orientation and gender identity, and remain committed to addressing inequalities and combat all forms of violence in the workplace, including sexual harassment.

Promoting the full enjoyment of human rights, gender equality, work-life balance, and the empowerment for **women and girls** is a paramount focus for Malta. We strive to eliminate systemic barriers and societal biases that create and perpetuate inequalities in the labour market between women and men. Additionally, we are resolute in ending obstacles and stereotypes limiting girls' and women's aspirations in STEM fields.

Young persons are not just the future; they are vital agents for positive change in the realm of social justice and social



development. This is why Malta advocates for safe, inclusive and meaningful child and youth participation in decision-making at all levels. We are committed to promoting opportunities for employment and education, including literacy, apprenticeship and traineeship for young persons and preparing them for the digital and green transitions.

Social development policies must acknowledge the diverse needs of **families**, in particular vulnerable families. Providing better social protection for all, including affordable and quality health, education and social services, is a prerequisite for enhancing the well-being and the rights of children and achieving a more equitable gender and age distribution of household care burdens.

Malta recognises the crucial role of **older persons** and **persons with disabilities** in achieving social justice. We advocate for inclusive and accessible social protection policies that ensure decent living standards and enables them to live independently and in dignity.

Furthermore, we underscore that social justice is an important aspect of a just transition towards a sustainable future, and that



social protection systems have a crucial role to play in supporting the mitigation and adaptation of individuals and families to environmental degradation and **climate change**.

As a member of the Security Council, we also underscore that social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In closing, the Summit of the Future presents a unique opportunity to foster social justice by rebuilding the social contract based on human rights, encompassing social protection, decent work, and quality education.

We look forward to rich discussions at this session.

I thank you.