



THE PERMANENT MISSION  
OF MALTA TO THE UN NEW YORK



Malta  
2023-2024

UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY COUNCIL

## Security Council Open Debate: 'The Impact of Climate Change and Food Insecurity on the Maintenance of International Peace and Security', 13 February 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Vanessa Frazier  
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

---

President

Malta thanks Guyana for organising today's timely debate, and for placing the spotlight on the nexus between climate change and food insecurity. We also thank the briefers for their insights.

Malta also aligns itself with the statement to be delivered later today by Nauru on behalf of the Group of Friends of Climate and Security.

As a threat multiplier, climate change has increased resource-based conflicts in several parts of the world, exacerbating instability, and challenging resilience among vulnerable populations.



Evidence shows that persons living in conflict-affected areas face or are at the risk of facing acute food and water insecurity or starvation. Women and girls currently account for 70% of the world's hungry, with the climate crisis further deepening pre-existing gender inequalities. 75% of all stunted children under the age of five live in countries affected by armed conflict. These figures speak for themselves.

Understanding the link between agriculture and food systems, and climate change's impact on this link, is central to today's discussion. Climate-related impacts jeopardise agrifood systems and water resources, which, in turn, fuel competition over limited availability of natural resources, driving population mobility and displacement.

When coupled with a vicious cycle of rising temperatures, floods, droughts, and other extreme weather events, the reality becomes devastating, and is felt across the globe in various ways.

Rising ocean temperatures and sea-levels are impacting livelihoods in small island developing States in the Caribbean and the Pacific.



The El Niño-driven drought in the Horn of Africa has been ravaging millions of populations and their livelihoods with severe water shortages and dry pastures.

The ongoing conflict in Sudan has left almost 18 million people facing acute hunger, 10 million more than last year. The situation has been further exacerbated by compromised food production.

Food insecurity in the Sahel has tripled, leading to the fastest-growing displacement crisis.

We therefore require a holistic and integrated approach within the UN system, including at the Security Council. We recall, among other initiatives, the Council's unanimous recognition, through Resolution 2417, of the need to 'break the vicious cycle between armed conflict and food insecurity', as well as the unlawful denial of humanitarian access. We also thank humanitarian workers for their tireless efforts. Their selfless actions deserve our full respect and recognition.

President



Malta's commitment remains steadfast in addressing these challenges. As initiators of the Joint Pledges on Climate, Peace and Security, Malta reiterates its call for synergies to be met with concrete solutions, with a focus on strengthening early-warning, anticipatory actions, and climate-resilient agriculture and food systems.

We support the work of Climate, Peace and Security advisors engaged with select UN peacekeeping missions and special political missions, whose role remains crucial in identifying climate-related impacts on the ground.

In all our actions we must involve local actors. These include women human rights and environmental defenders. We encourage that climate financing also reaches grassroots women's organisations that are leading local adaptation and mitigation efforts. Traditional and religious leaders also have an important role to play in ensuring cooperation.



THE PERMANENT MISSION  
OF MALTA TO THE UN NEW YORK



**Malta**  
2023-2024

UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY COUNCIL

To conclude, President, we remain firm in our belief that we must seek to immediately respond to the root causes of food insecurity. These include breaking the cycle of conflict and addressing climate change. This Council has a responsibility to bear.

I thank you.