



Security Council Arria Formula Meeting 'Stepping up Preventive Action: From Environmental Challenges to Opportunities for Peace', 8 July 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Cassar

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Thank you, Chair. I begin by thanking Slovenia, together with Guyana, Republic of Korea, and Sierra Leone for organising today's meeting. I also thank today's briefers for their insightful remarks.

We highlight the urgency in addressing the triple planetary crisis made up of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

Such environmental stressors may serve as catalysts for instability and conflict. Sea-level rise, droughts, and flooding, among other climate-related shocks, can endanger food and water security, heighten farmer-herder conflicts, and damage critical infrastructure. On this note, we extend our heartfelt solidarity to nations affected by Hurricane Beryl in the Caribbean.

These urgent risks necessitate the integration of comprehensive risk assessments and robust early warning systems into our strategies.



Our approaches must also encompass socio-economic dimensions to facilitate long-term planning and resilience building. This allows us to better identify potential flashpoints before they escalate into crises, which, in turn, enables the safety of vulnerable communities.

Malta continues to advocate for collaborative efforts in managing shared resources, restoring degraded ecosystems, and transitioning to sustainable energy sources. In supporting local and indigenous knowledge, especially those led by women and youth as we have heard today, we can be successful in promoting a holistic approach to peacebuilding.

The New Agenda for Peace outlines a comprehensive approach, which can serve to better address and mitigate tensions over natural resources, and to promote sustainable development and long-term peace. Any initiative should also be fully in line with international humanitarian law and human rights law.



Chair

By unlocking these potentials, we can uproot societies from instability. Inequalities have long barred women's access to resources, while also highlighting women's indispensable role as caregivers.

We reiterate the importance of the full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation of women in all political and economic spheres, including the handling of natural resources.

This notion should be systematically addressed within the Security Council, including in the context of UN peace-support operations.

We recall the invaluable work carried out by both 'Climate, Peace, and Security Advisers' and by 'Women Protection Advisers' in various UN missions and regional offices. In so doing, we also acknowledge their mutually reinforcing relevance, such as in empowering women in leading efforts towards climate adaptation, and resource management.



We also commend the recent establishment of the UN Climate, Peace, and Security Hub for the Horn of Africa, led by UN Special Envoy Tetteh in collaboration with IGAD.

To conclude, Chair, let us seize this moment to transform the triple planetary crisis into a shared avenue for collaboration and stability.

As the Coordinator of the Joint Pledges on Climate, Peace and Security, Malta will continue to support discussions where efforts towards environmental stewardship and sustainability go hand-in-hand with contributions to international peace and security.

I thank you.