



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF MALTA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK

# Arria-formula - A Decade of Resolution 2286: Protecting Medical Care in Conflict Amid Evolving Threats

Statement delivered by HE Ms Natasha Meli, Permanent Representative of  
Malta to the United Nations  
5 May 2026 15:00-18:00 ECOSOC Chamber

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Thank you Chair,

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and adds the following  
in its national capacity.

We thank the organisers for convening this important discussion and the  
briefers for their insights.

It has been ten years since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2286,  
yet a decade later we are confronted with the troubling reality of increasing  
attacks on medical personnel and infrastructure, and the erosion of respect for  
international humanitarian law.

Last year, the number of medical personnel and patients killed in conflict zones  
more than doubled and since the end of February, the WHO has reported an  
average of 4.3 attacks per day on healthcare facilities.



These statistics paint an alarming and unacceptable picture. Healthcare facilities in conflict zones are lifelines for entire communities. When they are damaged or destroyed, civilians already in extreme vulnerability are pushed further into despair, with children among the hardest impacted. We must recommit to upholding our collective obligations as set out in the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols - any deliberate attacks against medical personnel or facilities may constitute war crimes and must be met with accountability.

Malta continues to advocate for full respect for international humanitarian law particularly amidst emerging and evolving threats. We support stronger protection frameworks, improved monitoring and reporting, and independent and impartial investigations into alleged attacks to guarantee accountability.

Chair,

Multilateralism and diplomacy must remain the cornerstone of our collective response to bring an end to conflicts and alleviate human suffering. In the meantime, all States must uphold their obligations under international law and take concrete measures to prevent attacks on healthcare in all its forms. Medical facilities, personnel, and patients can never, under any circumstances, be legitimate targets.

Thank you.