



# Open Debate – Upholding the Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter and Strengthening the UN-Centred International System

Statement delivered by Deborah M. Borg, Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations

26 May 2026 10:00-13:00 Security Council Chamber

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Thank you Mr President,

Malta would like to thank the Presidency for convening this Open Debate on this important and timely topic. We align ourselves with the statement to be delivered by the EU and would like to add the following in our national capacity.

Malta speaks today with a simple but urgent conviction: the international system is under strain, and the cost of its erosion is measured in instability, insecurity, and human suffering. When international law is disregarded, when accountability is absent, and when the principles of the Charter are applied selectively, trust in the multilateral system begins to unravel.

Malta clearly understands what is at stake. We all depend on a world where the rules-based international order is respected, where law restrains power, and where all States, regardless of size or influence, are bound equally by the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the consistent application of international law.

The Charter is not a suggestion, nor a selective instrument to be invoked when convenient and ignored when difficult. It is the foundation of international stability. When its principles are undermined and accountability becomes optional, we weaken the framework designed to protect us all.



The United Nations was created to “*save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.*” Yet today, that scourge is once again spreading across regions and generations. Entire populations are living under bombardment. Civilians continue to pay the highest price. Displacement has reached record levels, while humanitarian needs are growing faster than our collective response.

Most troubling of all, at a time when conflicts are proliferating around the world, our collective memory of the devastation of war appears to be fading.

We cannot allow ourselves to forget the lessons upon which this Organisation was founded. The principles that bind us together were shaped by the shared determination that the horrors of war must never be repeated. If those principles are allowed to weaken, we risk moving toward a world defined not by cooperation and shared responsibility, but by power politics, division, and zero-sum calculations.

This is precisely why reaffirming our collective commitment to the United Nations is so important. We must renew our support for multilateralism with the United Nations at its core.

At the same time, we must recognise a clear reality: over the past 80 years, the world has changed, and the United Nations must evolve with it to retain credibility and legitimacy. Malta, therefore, supports the UN80 initiative and efforts aimed at delivering meaningful improvements in how the UN functions. But reform must strengthen the system, not dilute its principles, and adaptation must never come at the expense of the Charter itself.



Mr President,

The Security Council carries an important and unique responsibility under the Charter.

When the Council is paralysed, the consequences are immediate and devastating.

When the Council is divided, civilians suffer.

When the Council is perceived as selective, trust in the international system begins to collapse.

The world cannot afford a Security Council that hesitates in the face of clear threats to international peace and security. The Council must act with consistency, credibility, and the courage to uphold its mandate, even when doing so is politically difficult. This must also include a consistent commitment to accountability, because when violations of international law are met with impunity or selective scrutiny, confidence in both the Council and the wider multilateral system is weakened.

Mr President,

No State, regardless of its size or power, is insulated from instability, conflict, or global shocks. Our security, our prosperity remain deeply interconnected, and that reality demands cooperation, responsibility, and respect for the rules that bind the international community together.



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The choice before us is clear. We can allow mistrust, division, and selective adherence to international law to further weaken the multilateral system, or we can recommit ourselves to the UN Charter and the principles upon which this Organisation was founded where multilateralism remains the foundation for addressing our shared challenges.

Malta stands ready to work with all Member States in defence of these principles and in support of a strong United Nations that remains at the centre of the international system.

I thank you.