



## General Assembly General Debate on Peace Mediation

1 June 2026

Malta Statement delivered by Permanent Representative Natasha Meli

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Madam President,

We thank the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Mediation – Finland and Türkiye – for convening today’s important debate.

As a proud member of this Group of Friends, Malta welcomes this opportunity to reaffirm its strong support for mediation as an essential instrument for conflict prevention, de-escalation, peaceful resolution, and the advancement of peace.

For my country, mediation is not simply a tool of last resort; it is a practical expression of the international community’s collective responsibility and obligation to pursue peace.

Multilateralism and the United Nations must remain central to this effort and be adequately equipped to respond to today’s challenges. This requires stronger cooperation among the UN Member States and an enhanced capacity for the UN to serve as an effective mediator. In the context of the UN80 Initiative, Malta reaffirms the importance of strengthening the UN’s mediation capacity and advancing effective UN-led mediation.

Madam President,

Mediation is not an automatic process. It requires careful design, sustained attention and credibility. No two conflicts are identical. Each country brings its own history, cultural sensitivities, and degrees of societal polarisation that must be taken into account.

Malta strongly believes that regional and sub-regional organisations have a unique and indispensable role to play in the peaceful settlement of



disputes. We encourage closer cooperation and stronger partnerships between these organisations and the Security Council. It is equally important for the Security Council to recognise the vital contribution of the NGOs and civil society in mediation, particularly in engaging non-state parties and ensuring that all sides feel included in the process.

Central to effective mediation is the role of women. Women's full, equal and safe participation in mediation is not optional. It is mandated by Security Council resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions and is a core obligation under the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Women are essential actors in conflict prevention, resolution, and recovery. Their participation broadens the range of voices at the table, strengthens the legitimacy of peace processes, and supports the development of more comprehensive, innovative, and sustainable solutions that contribute to lasting peace.

Young people are also among those most affected by conflict and they are key agents of positive change and peacebuilding. The Youth, Peace and Security agenda affirms the important role of young people in preventing and resolving conflict and calls for their meaningful inclusion in peace processes, including mediation. Their grassroots perspectives enrich negotiations and contribute to more inclusive and sustainable peace outcomes.

Madam President,

The state of our world today makes the case for mediation unmistakable. Effective mediation requires strong political will, continuous dialogue, and sustained diplomatic engagement. Malta believes that multilateralism remains indispensable to addressing conflict and shared challenges, fostering trust among nations, and upholding a rules-based international order grounded in the principles of the United Nations Charter.

Thank you.