



PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

Intervention for World Environment Day

Malta Statement delivered by HE Natasha Meli, Permanent Representative of Malta to the UN

5 June 2026 10:30-12:30hrs – Conference Room 11

Assistant-Secretary-General,

Excellencies,

I join my colleague in thanking UNEP and the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan for bringing us together.

Malta aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union and is making this remark in its national capacity.

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

Substantial progress has been made on climate action since the first observance of World Environment Day in 1973. However, our work remains far from being complete.

Malta shares structural challenges with other Small Island States, including limited land availability, high population density, and a heavy reliance on imports.

These constraints have not diminished our climate ambition, but they have required us to pursue innovative solutions adapted to these structural challenges. Malta is accelerating its clean energy transition through major investments in offshore wind and intra-Mediterranean energy connections. We are also pursuing emissions-reduction initiatives in hard-to-abate sectors such as Shore-to-Ship Power which enables ships in port to turn off their engines and connect to the national grid.



Together, these projects will increase renewable energy generation, reduce emissions, improve air quality, and support Malta's path towards climate neutrality.

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

We cannot afford to waver from the highest possible ambition in climate action. However, we must recognise that many countries face systemic barriers to meeting this ambition – and this requires our urgent attention.

The international community is facing global shocks, competing priorities, and shrinking fiscal space, and SIDS and developing countries bear a disproportionate share of this burden. Malta reiterates the importance of access to concessional finance, green financing instruments, capacity building, and debt relief mechanisms, which can provide governments the flexibility to meet their obligations while not compromising on climate action.

Climate action is an investment in our collective security, prosperity, competitiveness, and well-being. Malta looks forward to engaging with partners across all regions to advance climate action and share innovative solutions so that together, we can turn commitments into concrete results and safeguard our planet for present and future generations.

I thank you.