



UNSC – Colombia Signature Event on the Middle East 10 June 2026

Malta Statement delivered by Permanent Representative Natasha Meli

Thank you Madam President,

I wish to start by thanking Colombia for convening this very important debate. Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union, but I wish to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Madam President,

Malta remains deeply concerned by the continued escalation of violence across the region and its devastating toll on civilians. The risk of wider regional spillover, which remains real, underscores the urgent importance of sustained mediation efforts.

Mediation is not an optional tool - it is an indispensable pillar of conflict resolution. Today more than ever, it must be strengthened, supported and protected. As the United Nations Secretary-General has rightly stressed, de-escalation and dialogue remain the only viable path forward in an increasingly fragile regional context.



Madam President,

I would like to highlight four points.

First, to fully support the United Nations' good offices and mediation capacities, and to stand behind the Secretary-General and his envoys with one voice.

Second, mediation cannot be fruitful if the affected populations remain vulnerable to the repercussions of the war. The figures presented by several reports on the deteriorating conditions being faced by those affected by conflict is a testament of the urgency for unimpeded access of humanitarian assistance. To this end, it is crucial that any mediation efforts need to be coupled with safeguarding open and efficient humanitarian channels, as well as the protection of humanitarian and medical personnel, in line with International Humanitarian Law.

Third, to keep mediation inclusive and coherent, women and young people must have a meaningful seat at the table.



Fourth, regional organisations also have a unique role to play in mediation and dialogue, and we continue to encourage close cooperation and the strengthening of existing partnerships between regional organisations and the Security Council. Mediation requires perseverance, consistency, and long-term political will.

Madan President,

In the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, sustained engagement and mediation remain essential to alleviate human suffering, establish the minimum conditions required for meaningful political dialogue and lasting peace. Malta remains steadfast in its support for a two-State solution, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security. All mediation efforts should be firmly directed towards this objective.

Across the region, recent ceasefire arrangements offer a welcome opportunity to transform de-escalation into a broader political process. While the situation remains fragile in several contexts, these developments demonstrate the continued value of dialogue and mediation in advancing peace and stability.



Instability in the region's sea lanes is no longer only a matter of navigational rights. We have reached a perilous point for the world's ability to feed itself. The Gulf is a critical hub for the movement of fertilisers and the energy inputs needed to produce them, and recent disruptions have already pushed up prices, slowed shipments and risked missing key planting windows. The FAO and WFP caution that even brief shortages can depress yields for an entire season. When these supply lines falter, hunger rises, which is why de-escalation in these maritime corridors is not just a regional concern but a global responsibility.

In conclusion, Madam President, diplomacy, dialogue and mediation are not only our tools of choice, but they are also indispensable to a sustainable peace.

I thank you.