



PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

UNRWA Pledging Conference

30 June 2026

Malta Statement delivered by Permanent Representative Natasha Meli

President,

Thank you for convening this conference at such a critical moment for UNRWA and for the millions of Palestinian refugees who depend on it.

Malta aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union and is adding the following in its national capacity.

From Gaza to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and across Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, UNRWA remains a key provider of essential services and humanitarian assistance, in coordination with the broader United Nations system and humanitarian partners. Malta reaffirms its support for the Agency's mandate, renewed by the General Assembly, pending a just and lasting resolution of the question of Palestinian refugees in line with international law and relevant UNSC resolutions.

Malta acknowledges the work undertaken by UNRWA in implementing the recommendations of the Colonna report. We call on the Agency to continue its path of reform, demonstrating its commitment to neutrality in a transparent, credible and sustained manner. These reforms must now be fully institutionalised and accountability must be ensured.



Concurrently, while recognizing its security concerns, we call on Israel to fully comply with its obligations under international humanitarian law.

Malta remains gravely concerned about obstacles to the Agency's work, as well as attacks against United Nations premises and personnel. We call for UNRWA to be allowed to operate safely, effectively and without obstruction, in full respect of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations.

Furthermore, Malta calls for the resumption of immediate, unimpeded and safe delivery of humanitarian aid into Gaza, at a time when access must be expanded and not constrained.

Yet mandates cannot be fulfilled by political support and statements alone. The Agency today faces severe and persistent financial pressure that threatens its very capacity to function. Let us be clear: a funding gap for UNRWA is not an abstract phenomenon — it is a child out of school, a clinic that closes its doors, a family left without protection.

It is in this spirit that Malta will continue to provide financial support to UNRWA during 2026. Predictable and sustainable financing of the Agency remains a shared responsibility, and one we will continue to uphold.

Ultimately, support for UNRWA must be seen within the broader objective of regional stability, respect for international humanitarian law, and the pursuit of a just and lasting peace, based on the two-state solution, — where Israel and Palestine live side by side in peace and security.



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Malta stands ready to work with all partners committed to these goals.

I thank you.