



HLPF – Malta national statement during General Debate

Malta Statement delivered by Permanent Representative Natasha Meli

Mr. President, Excellencies,

Malta aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and its Member States, and adds the following in its national capacity.

Mr. President,

Ten years in, this Agenda deserves an honest account of both halves of its story. The progress is real: since 2015, nearly a billion more people have gained safely managed drinking water, electricity now reaches the great majority of humanity, and clean energy is outpacing every forecast. Backed by political will and financing, the Goals deliver.

Yet that progress is uneven and, on too many fronts, stalling: barely a third of targets are on track or advancing moderately. This is not the failure of the Agenda, but of the conditions around it — spreading conflict, a record retreat in development assistance, and debt that crowds out the very investment the Goals require. Systemic obstacles demand a systemic response.



Mr. President,

For an island nation, sustainability is the daily arithmetic of scarce resources. Among the world's most water-stressed countries, Malta has learned to make every drop count. That is why water anchors our engagement this year, and why we will be convening — with Antigua and Barbuda and OHRLLS — a side event on water management for small and vulnerable states. Water shows us the Goals are indivisible: what we produce depends on the energy we use and the infrastructure we build. Goals 6, 7, 9 and 11 must be pursued as one.

Nowhere is the gap between vulnerability and means starker than for small island developing States. Their exposure is not captured by income, yet income still governs the finance they can reach. This must change. Sevilla offers a credible path: closing the financing gap, reforming an architecture that measures nations by GDP rather than by risk, and operationalizing the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index — so that concessional finance, debt relief and capacity reach those who need them most. What was promised must now be delivered.



Malta seeks to match its words with action. At home, sustainable development is embedded across our national planning and our long-term Vision for the country, integrating economic resilience, social well-being and environmental sustainability. And through Malta's Energy Shift: A Sustainable Power Transition, we are pursuing an ambitious pathway to carbon neutrality by 2050 — scaling renewable energy, energy efficiency, innovation and resilient infrastructure.

Mr. President,

The 2030 Agenda remains our shared blueprint. As we reform this Organization for its ninth decade, let us return the Goals to the centre of our decisions — and prove, in these final years, that multilateralism can still deliver.

I thank you.