



PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

HLPF – Event on SIDS and SDGs

Malta Statement delivered by Ms. Deborah Borg, Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the UN
9 July 2026 10:00-13:00 UNHQ CR 4

Thank you, Mr. Vice President,

Malta aligns itself with the EU statement and the following are remarks in our national capacity.

For Malta, partnership with SIDS is a standing pillar of our foreign policy, from our Island for Islands Initiative to our continuing work at the UN on climate and sea-level rise. We are here as a committed partner to your agenda.

Two concrete points: first, water. SDG 6 comes under review this year; Malta speaks from experience: we are among the most water-scarce countries in the world. In the final stretch to 2030, partnerships and concrete action are key. It is also why Malta, Antigua and Barbuda, Fiji and UN-OHRLLS, are convening a side event on water management in SIDS on 16 July at 1:15pm — and I warmly welcome you all for this event.



Second, measuring what matters. Malta strongly supports the operationalisation of the MVI. What we choose to measure decides who qualifies for support — and as we heard this morning, income per capita does not fully account for the structural vulnerabilities that SIDS face. Using the MVI has the potential to ensure truly inclusive sustainable development.

Under an OACPS mandate, and building on the MVI, Malta and the OACPS have developed a Climate Vulnerability and Resilience Index: complementary to the MVI, but capturing both climate vulnerabilities and resilience priorities and actions. Equitable climate finance depends on recognising this. And it is why Malta supports the wider reform of the international financial architecture — so that these measures actually change who can access concessional finance, and on what terms.

On ABAS — this is SIDS' agenda and achievement. We recognise its new monitoring framework is an act of accountability, and the data gaps it reveals are a call for targeted investment. Partners have a role there, and Malta is one, one you can count on.

I now give the floor to our UN Youth Delegate for some brief remarks.



As Malta's UN Youth Delegate, I want to focus on one thing: education. SDG 4 is the cornerstone of resilience, and it is central to delivering ABAS. This is why Malta has opened its doors to students from SIDS through our dedicated SIDS Scholarship Programme — recognised with a UN SIDS Partnership Award. Every scholarship strengthens not just one person, but the community and country they return to. That is how we build the human capacity sustainable development depends on.

I thank you.