



PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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UNSC Open Debate – Strengthening the mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes: follow-up to Security Council resolution 2788 (2025)

Statement by HE Natasha Meli, Permanent Representative of Malta to the UN
23 July 2026 10:00-13:00 – Security Council Chamber

Mr. President,

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

At the outset, we would like to thank the Democratic Republic of the Congo for convening this important debate and the Secretary-General for his valuable contributions.

Mr. President,

Situated at the crossroads between regions and cultures, Malta remains committed to promoting more effective use of the Charter's mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes. In this regard, allow me to offer two considerations.

First, ensuring that conflict prevention and resolutions lead to sustainable peace, remains a key challenge. This requires the protection of civilians and meaningful inclusion of women, young people, and vulnerable groups in conflict prevention and resolution processes, so that the needs of those most affected are reflected.

This conviction guided Malta's work on the Security Council. Most notably, when we led the adoption of Resolution 2764 on strengthening child protection capacities in UN peace operations, reflecting the broader lesson that protecting vulnerable populations is essential to sustaining peace.



Regional and sub-regional organisations and local civil society actors, including women-led organisations, are indispensable partners in this effort. By drawing on their complementary strengths – including regional expertise and trusted community relationships – they can identify emerging risks early, strengthen national ownership and help ensure that peace processes are more inclusive and sustainable.

Second, the lack of sufficient political commitment to peacefully resolve conflicts remains a persistent obstacle. Malta's experience has shown that institutions and multilateralism matter, even when they cannot immediately resolve conflicts.

During our 2024 Chairpersonship of the OSCE, we saw firsthand that in times of deep political divisions, preserving channels of communication and ensuring that institutions continue to function is essential. Doing so helps further prevent deterioration, rebuild eroded trust and create the conditions for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

This experience also reinforced our conviction that regional organisations can offer context-specific solutions grounded in regional realities, thereby helping to build the consensus needed for peaceful settlement.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, lasting peace is built through inclusive processes, sustained dialogue, effective partnerships, and above all, an unwavering commitment to the Charter. Malta will continue to champion these principles in the service of international peace and security.

I thank you.