



PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

National Statement to the International Meeting on Victim Assistance and Environmental Remediation, ECOSOC, 1 September 2026 10:00am

Statement delivered by Albert Ghigo, Counsellor

Distinguished Chairs,

Malta thanks Kazakhstan and Kiribati for convening this important First International Meeting on Victim Assistance and Environmental Remediation, in accordance with GA Resolutions 79/60 and 80/56.

Co-chairs,

Malta welcomes the progress made in advancing the implementation of Articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. For Malta, these provisions are not merely technical obligations. They represent a commitment to victims of nuclear weapons use and testing, affected communities and future generations who continue to bear their consequences.

Malta attaches particular importance to ensuring that this work remains people-centred, inclusive and gender-responsive.

As the **Gender Focal Point of the TPNW**, Malta has built on the important work undertaken by Chile and Mexico and has collaborated closely with the Co-Chairs during the current intersessional period. Over the past year and a half, Malta has convened webinars and side events addressing the differentiated humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, including the gendered effects of ionising radiation. These discussions have highlighted the importance of empowering women, strengthening inclusive participation and ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in nuclear disarmament.

More recently, Malta has consulted States, affected communities, academia and civil society on the development of **guidelines for age- and gender-responsive victim assistance**. Gender and age considerations must be integrated from the outset in the design, delivery and monitoring of assistance programmes. This work is not an additional layer to the implementation of the Treaty, but an essential part of fulfilling it.

Co-Chairs,

Malta also reaffirms its support for the establishment of an **international Trust Fund for Victim Assistance and Environmental Remediation** at the



forthcoming First Review Conference of the TPNW. Such a Fund would help translate the commitments contained in Articles 6 and 7 into concrete assistance for victims and affected communities.

As Gender Focal Point, Malta believes that the process towards establishing the Trust Fund dovetails closely with the work Malta has been doing on the guidelines. A Fund responsive to affected communities must recognise the differentiated experiences and needs of women, men, girls and boys. Gender perspectives must therefore be reflected in its design and implementation.

Victim assistance, environmental remediation and gender equality are intrinsically linked to the humanitarian purpose of the Treaty. At the First Review Conference, we have an opportunity to translate our commitments into tangible action for affected communities. We must seize it.

Thank you