



National Statement to the High-Level Meeting on the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DEBORAH M BORG, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE ON BEHALF OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA

29 September 2026

Mr. President,

Malta shares the view that the total elimination of nuclear weapons remains the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use. Their continued existence constitutes an existential threat to global peace, security and humanity.

No State, large or small, would be immune from their catastrophic humanitarian consequences. The recent commemoration of the 81st anniversary of the Hiroshima bombings reminds us of the devastating human cost and of the enduring message of the *hibakusha*.

Malta strongly supports complete nuclear disarmament and recognises the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) as a landmark instrument towards this goal.

As the TPNW's Gender Focal Point, Malta continues to promote the meaningful participation of women in disarmament and to highlight the disproportionate impact of nuclear weapons on women. We are also contributing to efforts to strengthen age- and gender-sensitive victim assistance and to engage affected communities and civil society.

Mr. President,

Malta strongly supports the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and calls for its universalisation. The CTBT remains an essential instrument for preventing further nuclear proliferation and advancing nuclear disarmament.

Malta also attaches great importance to the NPT and its three pillars, particularly at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions, nuclear posturing and growing mistrust. While the 2026 NPT Review Conference did not produce a substantive consensus outcome, Malta encourages all States to use the Conference as an opportunity for renewed dialogue and cooperation.

Regional nuclear-weapon-free zones are another important contribution to this objective. Malta supports strengthening existing zones and promoting their establishment in regions where they do not yet exist.

We also recognise the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum and believe that it should help rebuild trust and restore a spirit of meaningful negotiation.

Finally, Malta recognises the vital role of the IAEA in strengthening safeguards and promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. We commend its Technical Cooperation Programme and we



PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

are honoured to have hosted the 2026 IAEA National Liaison Officers Conference in Valletta earlier this year.

As we commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, Malta reaffirms its commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons. This remains central to our pursuit of international peace and security.

I thank you.