



PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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Malta Statement delivered by Permanent Representative Natasha Meli

I thank you,

Malta aligns with the statement of the European Union and makes these remarks in its national capacity.

I wish to start by thanking Greece for convening this debate and Acting Special Coordinator Alakbarov for his briefing.

President,

The frameworks for addressing the challenges before us already exist, including resolutions adopted by this Council. The priority is to ensure their full implementation and to sustain the diplomatic efforts needed to achieve lasting results.

On Gaza, resolution 2803 provides a framework that must be fully implemented. The ceasefire remains fragile and all parties must honour their commitments: Israel must withdraw to the agreed line and ensure unimpeded humanitarian access at scale; Hamas must disarm and have no role in Gaza's future governance. The security and dignity of Israelis and Palestinians must be upheld.



The Palestinian Authority must be supported and strengthened through its reform agenda. We regret the postponement of Palestinian elections and stress the need for a credible pathway towards free and fair elections, enabling the democratic renewal, legitimacy and accountability of Palestinian institutions while advancing prospects for a negotiated two-State solution.

In the West Bank, settler violence must stop and perpetrators held accountable. The E1 settlement expansion would further undermine the territorial contiguity necessary for a viable Palestinian State. Malta remains firmly committed to the two-State solution, with Jerusalem as the future capital of both States.

On Lebanon, resolutions 1701 and 1559 remain the cornerstone for ending hostilities and extending State authority throughout its territory. With UNIFIL's mandate approaching expiry, all stakeholders must act to preserve stability in southern Lebanon and prevent a security vacuum.

On Syria, we support an inclusive, Syrian-led transition that preserves Syria's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity, alongside strengthened institutions, rule of law, transitional justice and accountability.



We also reiterate our solidarity with Saudi Arabia and strongly condemn Houthi attacks against its territory and civilian infrastructure. Such attacks, alongside continued threats to commercial shipping, must cease. The security of the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandeb is vital to regional stability and international trade. Freedom of navigation and navigational rights must be fully respected.

Mr President, the international community has developed the frameworks needed to address many of these crises. Our efforts must now focus on supporting their implementation and delivering tangible improvements on the ground.

I thank you.