



PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

3C General Debate

Malta Statement delivered by HE Natasha Meli, Permanent Representative of Malta to the UN and Mr Samuel Camilleri Brancalone UNYD

Thank you Chair,

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

Chair, at the outset, allow me to join others in congratulating you and the rest of the Bureau on your election and to thank you for guiding the work of the third committee.

At a time when confidence in multilateral institutions is being tested and as conflicts, humanitarian crises, inequality and discrimination continue to affect millions around the world, the need for a stronger and more effective international human rights system has become more imperative than ever.

The universality of human rights must remain at the heart of our collective efforts. We must ensure that international human rights standards are translated into meaningful



protection for all, while strengthening accountability and addressing violations wherever they occur.

Malta welcomes the progress made under the UN80 initiative and looks forward to continued efforts to strengthen the organisation. However, reform must advance holistically across the three pillars. Adequate and predictable resources remain essential to ensuring that the United Nations can effectively deliver on its human rights commitments.

Chair,

Malta remains deeply concerned by the grave human rights violations in conflicts worldwide, including in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar and Afghanistan. We are particularly alarmed by the widespread use of conflict-related sexual violence, gender-based violence and trafficking as tactics of war, which inflict devastating and disproportionate harm, especially on women and girls.



We also remain concerned by growing challenges to established human rights norms and by efforts to weaken the protections and institutions that underpin their effective implementation.

It is against this backdrop that Malta will remain steadfast in our efforts to:

- protect and promote the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons;
- advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda, which remains a key priority;
- advocate for children affected by armed conflict; and
- combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all their forms.

Malta will also continue to support strengthened international accountability and continued efforts to prevent impunity for the gravest violations under international law. We therefore reaffirm our unwavering support for the international criminal justice system, particularly the International Criminal Court, and its independence and integrity.



I thank you, Chair. I would now like to give the floor to our UN Youth Delegate Samuel Camilleri Brancaleone to share his perspective.

Thank you chair.

Young people are not a homogeneous group. We come from different contexts, realities, and geographies be it large nations or a Small Island nation like my own. Our daily experiences and localised challenges vary.

Yet beneath these different realities, we share common concerns. As armed conflicts multiply—whether closer to home in Ukraine and the Middle East, or farther afield in Myanmar—international peace and security are coming under increased strain. We can only watch as our peers are robbed of their futures, their classrooms, and their safety. Despite this, distance does not dilute our empathy, and we recognise that a threat to peace anywhere is a threat to human dignity everywhere. When international human rights law is



disregarded, it is younger generations who inherit the consequences of instability.

Diverse societies are strongest when every individual has equal opportunity to participate, contribute and feel a sense of belonging. In this regard, Malta has strived to foster an inclusive society in which everyone is valued as an integral part of our social fabric. We have learned that true integration requires active listening, socio-economic inclusion, and trust.

As we look at the 11th year of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, we cannot champion peace abroad while ignoring social cohesion at home. Peace is built when we reject discrimination, and ensure that every young person, regardless of their background, feels like they belong and have the opportunity to meaningfully contribute to society.

While the international community has made remarkable strides in giving young people a seat at the table, we must move far beyond tokenism. Meaningful youth representation requires more than our presence at the table. It requires



effective and institutionalised consultation, ensuring that decisions affecting our lives are taken with young people, not simply for them.

Chair,

During this past General Assembly, we have heard calls for peace and renewed commitments to multilateralism. These commitments must now be matched by meaningful action. As the Third Committee advances its work, let us ensure that young people are not only heard, but are meaningfully involved in shaping the decisions that will define our shared future.

I thank you.