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UNGA81 – Malta national statement during Second Committee General Discussion on Sustainable Development

Malta Statement delivered by Policy Officer Devika Manish Kumar

Mister Chair,

Malta thanks the Office of the Secretary-General for preparing the reports under the Sustainable Development agenda item.

We would like to share three points we found particularly relevant in the reports.

First, sustainable development is facing the triple headwinds of climate, conflict, and constrained fiscal space. The integration and indivisibility of the SDGs are apparent now more than ever. As we commence negotiations on the Second Committee resolutions, let us strengthen their ambition, their connection to the 2030 Agenda, and their connection to our other work, including Conferences, outcomes, and declarations.



Second, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS. Several indicators are trending positively, including economic growth and implementation of disaster risk management policies. However, these gains risk reversal if we do not address the external shocks adding pressure on SIDS, including worsening climate change and energy supply shocks. Malta also calls for greater support for strengthening SIDS statistical capacity, which is essential for the effective monitoring of ABAS.

Third, finance. We cannot have a meaningful discussion on the achievement of the SDGs without addressing the annual \$4 trillion financing gap in developing countries. We need to mobilize more resources, from more diverse sources. And with four more years remaining until 2030, we should also ask: where do we direct finance, so it has the greatest spillover and the greatest return on development?

Malta calls for greater engagement with international financial institutions to push forward the implementation of political commitments, including the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index.

Mister Chair,

We have the frameworks and the programmes of actions to follow. It is in our hands, the Second Committee, to keep them front and centre and maintain the momentum towards 2030 and beyond.

I thank you.