



PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

National Statement to the First Committee General Debate

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E NATASHA MELI, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE ON BEHALF OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA

7 October 2026

I thank you Mr. President,

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and wishes to add the following remarks in its national capacity.

President,

We meet at a time when the disarmament and arms control architecture is under considerable strain. Malta believes that the First Committee must remain a forum for practical action to reduce the risks posed by weapons of mass destruction and to advance peace and security.

The complete elimination of nuclear weapons remains the only effective guarantee against their use or threat of use. The continued existence and modernization of nuclear arsenals, and increasingly dangerous nuclear rhetoric are deeply concerning.

The expiration of New START has further weakened an already fragile arms control environment. Malta calls for renewed efforts towards meaningful, verifiable and irreversible reductions in nuclear arsenals, and arms control arrangements to fill this gap.



Malta remains committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the implementation of its three pillars. The lack of consensus at the 2026 NPT Review Conference must not become an excuse for inaction, but must strengthen our determination to preserve the integrity of the NPT and advance its objectives.

As a State Party to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Malta encourages States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty. The forthcoming Review Conference in New York will provide an opportunity to strengthen implementation and reaffirm our commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons.

In this context, Malta is proud to serve as the Gender Focal Point for the TPNW. Over the past year, through engagement with States and civil society, Malta has worked to advance the Guidelines on Age- and Gender-Sensitive Victim Assistance.

President,

Malta further reaffirms its strong support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and calls for its universalization and entry into force. We must preserve the norm against nuclear testing and strengthen its verification architecture.



Emerging technologies are transforming the security environment. Malta stresses that meaningful human control must remain at the centre of decisions involving the use of force.

We support efforts to strengthen the international framework governing conventional weapons and address emerging security challenges, including in cyberspace and outer space.

Mr. Chair,

In concluding, disarmament is ultimately about human security. We will continue working constructively to strengthen multilateralism, uphold international law and advance a safer world for present and future generations.

I thank you.