



A Planet Fit for the Future: Restoring Trust through Climate Action

Malta Statement delivered by Policy Officer Devika Manish Kumar
16 October 2026

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

Malta aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union and is making this statement in its national capacity.

The decisions we take at COP31 must strengthen trust and reaffirm international cooperation particularly at a time when pressure on the rules-based international order is testing our ability to address challenges collectively.

Ahead of COP31, our message is clear - the Paris Agreement cannot remain a framework of promises. Its credibility depends on means of implementation and support for those facing the greatest climate risks, including SIDS and LDCs.

Mitigation ambition must rise. All Parties, and major emitters, must strengthen and implement credible action consistent with the best available science and the Paris Agreement. Malta remains committed to keeping 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach, mindful of the findings of UNEP's Overshoot Report.

For Malta, climate change is also about the ocean.



The ocean regulates our climate, supports livelihoods and is fundamental to the resilience of coastal and island communities. We therefore call for the full integration of the ocean-climate nexus into climate action.

Climate change-induced sea level rise has implications for peace, security and international law. Legal certainty and cooperation are essential to address questions regarding sovereignty, statehood and maritime zones.

Mr. President,

In 1988, Malta initiated the General Assembly resolution that recognised climate change as a common concern of humankind. This means that States have a responsibility to act collectively, in accordance with their responsibilities and capacities, to protect people and planet.

Our planet, which sustains life and livelihoods, is already fit for the future. The decisions we take, or do not take, are what imperil it. We congratulate Fiji and Tuvalu for convening the Pre-COP and reassure our full support to the COP31 Presidency and President of Negotiations to turn ambition into results.

I thank you.