

Malta

2023-2024

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL







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Foreword by H.E. George Vella

In its fifty-eight years as a Sovereign State, Malta had only once had the opportunity and responsibility to have a seat on the UN Security Council.

That was in 1983-84. Following years of contributions to multilateralism through active participation in UN activities and programmes, the time has come for Malta to candidate itself again for a seat on the Security Council in the year 2023-2024.

We strongly believe that as we did in the past, we can contribute in no small way towards achieving the security, the solidarity and the attainment of the sustainability goals our planet needs so badly.

Against a backdrop of an unprovoked and unjustified war in Ukraine, we will also insist on the full observance of international law, territorial integrity and sovereignty of all countries, big or small. Our vast experience in international fora, and our hands-on experience in dealing with the many turbulent situations in our immediate neighborhood along the years, has given Malta the necessary experience and sound judgement that are so vital when holding such a prestigious seat on the UN Security Council.

Our democratic credentials are beyond reproach. Our strong belief in multilateralism and our long history in defense of democracy and rule of law stand us in good stead.

Through participation in the UN Security Council we could work with other Members towards the achievement of peace through



President of Malta

dialogue, de-escalation of conflict and disarmament, gender equality and women, peace and security as well as education, better health facilities, sustainable development and a holistic address of climate change.

The eradication of poverty and the equitable distribution of the world's resources are objectives we will strive to achieve. Malta in the Security Council will be a voice for justice, moderation, understanding and tolerance.

Commitment to global dialogue will guide our decisions. Our relations with UN members, based on mutual respect and partnership, give us the required credentials to effectively engage and act in the best interests of global peace, stability and prosperity.

I wish Ambassador Vanessa Frazier and her team at Malta's Mission to the United Nations every success.



Prime Minister of Malta

Foreword by Hon. Robert Abela

Securing peace and prosperity through multilateral efforts is one of the fundamental principles of Malta's foreign policy. This is why significant importance is attached to the United Nations which is at the very core of the multilateral system.

We always made it necessary for us to look beyond our shores, to engage in international fora and embrace multilateralism.

Furthermore, Malta's strategic position between Europe and Africa, is reflected in Malta's dynamic and diverse population and also in

our ability to act as a bridge between different continents and cultures.

In the light of the contemporary security and economic issues, the United Nations continues to provide an invaluable platform to effectively address these challenges through multilateral diplomacy and effective dialogue. We are convinced that this cooperation together with the adherence to the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations, are the only route towards a peaceful solution to the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Now, more than ever, Malta is committed to prioritising joint initiatives, by engaging in smart and effective multilateral understanding with the aim of enhancing trust and cooperation between states.



After nearly forty years since Malta's first ever term as an elected member of the Security Council in 1983-84, Malta is once again committed to serve on the main United Nations body responsible for international peace and security.

We are convinced that through our contributions to the international community along the years, Malta acquired the ideal credentials to serve as an elected member of the United Nations Security Council, in an effective and convincing manner.

Our political values reflect our committed resolve to fulfil our responsibilities by addressing challenges and taking decisive action.

In recent years, my government was the driving force behind the numerous and various reforms carried out. These include reforms aimed at: enhancing equality and increasing female the participation of women in politics; addressing gaps in civil liberties; implementing substantial changes to further strengthen the rule of law.

Significant reforms to strengthen democracy and the institutions that deliver it were also implemented. Furthermore, legislative amendments were carried out to increase the protection given to journalists, and facilitate a nurturing and even safer environment for

journalists based in Malta to operate in. My aim, and that of my government, is to deliver a better future for our country and citizens by enabling a just, fair, and equitable society.

As an elected member to the United Nations Security Council in 2023 - 2024, Malta stands ready to play a key role in restoring and maintaining international peace and security. Our programme is based on the three pillars: Security, Sustainability and Solidarity which reflect our commitment to the values that the UN stands for.

As the world emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic and seeks to identify a path to peace in Ukraine, it is critical that we recover better together whilst ensuring that no country is left behind.

This requires renewed efforts towards implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, which unfortunately are still very much off track.

Multilateralism, bolstered by a strong spirit of partnership and cooperation, can take us forward into the future.

Together, we can address global issues of priority, interest and concern by striving for dialogue and peaceful resolution to conflict.



Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade

Remarks by Ian Borg, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade

In his report 'Our Common Agenda', the Secretary General stated that we are at an inflection point in history, a moment that represents our biggest shared test since the Second World War.

We find ourselves facing several threats and challenges that must be addressed in a collective manner and with a sense of urgency. Conflicts, climate change, pandemics, poverty, socio-economic inequalities, discrimination,

extremism, and disillusionment are all having an impact on our planet, our societies, and our futures.

Our actions in the coming months and years will determine the fates of our generation and those to come.

For Malta the choice is clear. We must continue to reinforce and invest in our multilateral system so that it is equipped with all the necessary tools and resources to deal with current and future challenges.

Malta is committed to the principles of effective multilateralism which are enshrined in the UN Charter. These have been an integral part of our foreign policy from its inception.

Our geographic location makes us a natural bridge-builder and a strong believer in the power of dialogue. Our journey from a colony



to date is testament to the fact that size is not an insurmountable obstacle if there is vision and determination. Our vision as an elected member of the Security Council rests on three pillars: Security, Sustainability, and Solidarity.

Security: We have witnessed the devastating consequences of conflict, and the lasting suffering it brings with it. The invasion of the Ukraine and the daily escalation of the war is threatening the world with a nuclear Armageddon. First and foremost, the prevention of further hostilities and the cessation of conflict is paramount. Civilians need to be protected, in particular minorities and vulnerable groups. Human rights are universal and accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity is an essential element for sustainable peace. Humanitarian aid must reach those in need. Political processes need to be inclusive and must give space to women and youth in all stages.

Malta is fully committed to supporting peacekeeping missions and peacebuilding efforts which are at the heart of the UN in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security.

Sustainability: In our increasingly interconnected world, global challenges require global solutions. Climate change is one of the leading causes of environmental degradation and heightening competition for diminishing land and dwindling resources. Sea-level rise is posing an existential threat to

coastal cities and Small Islands and States. A 360-degree approach is needed to address this complex global emergency in a holistic manner and concrete action is needed to mitigate all negative consequences.

Solidarity: In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we used to state that 'we are all in this together' and claim that 'nobody is safe until everyone is safe'. These slogans are still true today and significant steps are needed to make sure that no one is left behind. The pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on the developing world. It has reversed hard-fought gains in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is our responsibility to strive to get things back on track and redouble efforts towards a more just and equitable world.

These are the ideals that we intend to bring to the table. We are confident and fully committed to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security in an active and meaningful manner.

We look forward to play our part to make the world safe from conflict, aggression, repression, poverty and injustice.

We are always ready to justice, dialogue, prosperity and peace.

10 A. MALTA'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE UN

Malta strongly supports the UN system, and our State is an ardent believer of the benefits of multilateralism.

Malta believes that the UN has much scope to address and find effective solutions to global challenges. Its potential depends on the will and contribution of its Members States.

Malta has a history of contribution to the UN in terms of its political engagement.

Since 2011, Malta has been an elected member of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), served as Vice-President of the Tribunal during the period 2017-2020, and has subsequently been President of the Chamber for Marine Environment Disputes since October 2020.

In December 2021, albeit at a time when it was not a member of ECOSOC, Malta was elected by ECOSOC as a member to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

In February 2022, Malta was elected as a member of a high-level panel of experts tasked by the United Nations General Assembly to work within the UN system on the formulation of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States.

Moreover, over the years, Malta has successfully occupied various chairs and vice-chairs of committees, agencies, assemblies and has also acted as rapporteur in the UN System.





During the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly, Malta was elected to the Chair of the UN General Assembly Second Committee (Economic and Financial) and was also chosen to serve as Vice-Chair of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC). During the 75th Session of the General Assembly, Malta was elected Vice-Chair of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee). At the 74th Session of the General Assembly, Malta was elected as one of the Assembly's Vice-Presidents.

From January 2020 to December 2021 Malta occupied the role of Co-Chair of the UN Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) together with Antigua and Barbuda.

Malta was also entrusted with a number of Vice-Chair positions, including that of Vice-Chair and Rapporteur of the 43rd and 44th Session of the Committee of Information (Col), a subsidiary body of the General Assembly.

Malta also served on the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) between 2019 and 2020,



having been elected in a by-election in June 2018.

In December 2021, Malta was elected to serve on the Industrial Development Board (IDB) of UNIDO until 2025. It also was re-elected for a second two-year term to serve on the UNIDO Programme and Budget Committee (PBC).





In December 2021, Malta was re-elected for the thirteenth time in a row to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Category C, an important seat in view of the fact that the Malta Flag has the highest registered tonnage in Europe and sixth highest registered tonnage in the world.

Apart from enforcing the UN system with participation in its organs and subsidiary bodies, Malta has also contributed through its involvement in several initiatives.

In 2015, Malta was one of the initiating players which started the process towards the establishment of the International UN Day of Women and Girls in Science, which is commemorated every year on 11th February. Today, the relative resolution is cosponsored by over 65 countries and was adopted with the approval of all UN Member States. Since its inception, Malta joined the 'Veto Initiative' as part of the core group of countries, which was recently formalised in a General Assembly resolution adopted by consensus in April 2022.

Malta also formed part of another core group of countries on the E-Voting Decision, which was adopted in November 2020.

As an active signatory to the 'Science not Silence Pledge,' Malta co-hosted a side-event on the Pledge in the margins of the UN ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum in July 2021, including the 5th Anniversary of the Paris Agreement in December 2020 and at the Virtual Island Summit in September 2021.

Malta has worked with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and its Regional Office for the Mediterranean to establish and host a Training Institute on Migration Capacity Partnership for the Mediterranean (MCP MED TI). The MCP MED TI was officially launched in December 2021 and held its first Governing Board Meeting online in April 2022. The Training Institute acts as a permanent and accredited vocational





migration training centre for the Mediterranean region, with training focused on areas related to migration governance. Beneficiary southern partners are fully involved in its governing board, in the spirit of true partnership and to ensure that their actual needs are met.

Building upon the proposal put forward at the Symposium organised by the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), International Maritime Organization (IMO), World Maritime University (WMU) and International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) on “Flag State Responsibilities and the future of Article 91 of the United Nations Convention on the Law

of the Sea (UNCLOS)”, Malta and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) presented a virtual Symposium held in March 2022 with the aim to explore ways of strengthening maritime rule of law and combatting illicit trafficking as well as sharing of best practices.

In June 2022, HE Vanessa Frazier was elected President of the States Party to UNCLOS.





B. MALTA'S CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE AND SECURITY

Malta has co-sponsored several key Security Council resolutions which promote peace, security, the protection of civilians, and the wellbeing of people, including UNSCR 2594 (2021) on Peacekeeping transitions, UNSCR 2573 (2021) on the protection of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, and UNSCR 2352 (2020) and 2565 (2021) on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in the most vulnerable countries.

Furthermore, Malta has always advocated a strong position on disarmament and non-proliferation issues, reflecting its neutrality and strong belief in diplomacy and dialogue. Continuing in its tradition of swiftly ratifying international agreements, Malta signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear- Weapons (TPNW) in August 2020 and ratified it in September of the same year.

Maintaining international peace and security is the main pillar of the Security Council's work and as such, peacekeeping operations through the decades have contributed immensely towards this goal. Malta remains of the view that peacekeeping is a

fundamental role played by the UN. Malta currently has a contingent of Peacekeeping troops deployed with UNIFIL.

Malta remains deeply committed to the mandates of all Peacekeeping Missions and will continue to work within the Security Council to ensure efficient Peacekeeping Transitions and the provision of the necessary resources in the fulfillment of their mandates.

Peacebuilding is also of paramount importance. Since February 2021, Malta has contributed to the Peacebuilding Fund. This contribution will continue to take place over the next four years. Malta also made a voluntary token contribution to the Trust Fund for Victims in November 2021 with a view of enabling the Fund to continue providing assistance to victims of the gravest crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC.

Malta has announced a contribution to finance the needs of the special Tribunal for Lebanon.

A voluntary financial contribution was also made to the Trust Fund "Technological Tools, Psychological Support and Specialized Capacity in Sexual and Gender-based Violent (SGBV) Crimes and Crimes against Children", to support the work of the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC.



C. CLIMATE AND THE OCEANS

Malta is an active member of the Group of Friends on Climate & Security. Malta held two events in partnership with the Co-Chairs of the Group.

The first was a side event on 'Climate Change & the Ocean—Bridging the Gap from Science to Global Security Concerns' in June 2021. The event focused on the interplay between climate change and our oceans, and how these issues can be properly addressed by the international community, especially the UN Security Council.

The second was a side event on 'Sea-Level Rise and its implication on Security' in May 2022. The aim of the event was to deepen the discussion held last year in the wider context of climate change and the oceans, with a focus on sea-level rise. In bridging the gap between science, law, legal, security and policy, the event looked at several key threats that sea-level rise has on international peace and security.

In acknowledging the importance that the oceans hold to small island states as well as



small island developing states (SIDS), Malta has also contributed to the Trust Fund to support the participation of least developed countries and SIDS at the upcoming UN Ocean Conference to take place in Lisbon, Portugal in June - July 2022.

Malta participated as a key speaker at a High-Level Webinar on “Enhancing the Role and Participation of Women to the UN in Deep-Sea Scientific Research” organised by the International Seabed Authority (ISA) on International Women’s Day in 2022.

In December 2021, Malta supported and co-sponsored a draft UN Security Council Resolution on Climate Security. Malta also co-sponsored an Arria Formula Meeting on “Sea-Level Rise and Implications for International Peace and Security” in October 2021.

Having introduced the founding principles of the Law of the Sea in the UN, Malta is a natural member of the Group of Friends on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).





D. CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

In May 2022, Malta co-organized an event during which a paper on 'The Gender Dimensions of Grave Violations Against Children in Armed Conflict,' was presented. This paper was published and launched in conjunction with the 25th Anniversary of the CAAC Mandate. Malta allocated funds in 2021-2022 to the Office of SRSG to carry out a study on this subject.

Also in May 2022, Malta co-sponsored a photo exhibition hosted by the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict entitled 'From Despair to Hope: Children Beyond Armed Conflict' by Paddy Dowling.

Furthermore, in July 2021 Malta signed a Grant Agreement with SRSG Virginia Gamba for the establishment of a Virtual Summer School on Child Protection and the Prevention of Grave Violations against Children in Armed Conflict. The pilot phase is to be organised and offered in collaboration with the University of Malta. Malta is contributing funds over two years for this project. The virtual summer school is scheduled to be held at end of August/early September 2022.

Malta became a member of the Group of Friends on Education and Lifelong Learning in March 2022. It is also Co-Chair of the Group of Friends on Reintegration of Child Soldiers, together with France and Kazakhstan.

Malta also co-sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 2601 on Education in Conflict in December 2021.





E. WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Malta launched its first National Action Plan in October 2020. For these last two years, Malta has been furthering its commitment to reach the goal of our national action plan in this sector.

Malta joined the Group of Friends on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in November 2020. Malta's commitment in this area is evidenced by several laws which have been introduced since 2013 to guarantee gender equality and ban all discrimination in every sphere of life.

In November 2021, the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade together with the Berlin Centre for International Peace

Operations (ZIF) organised the First Peace Mediation Capacity Building Programme for diplomats with the support of the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO).

Since peace mediation is an important aspect of the WPS Agenda, the target of this programme focused on the first steps towards the creation of a pool of qualified peace mediators that would allow Malta to assume a more active role in peace-related activities.

Every year, Malta co-organizes an event to commemorate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science in collaboration with the Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT) and other UN Member States.

In February 2022, a course on WPS organised by the University of Malta with the support of the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, was launched.





Malta aspires to enhance its contribution in these fields and others during its term as an elected member of the UN Security Council.

Malta will listen to all the UN members and interested stakeholders, work closely with them, and seek to strike compromises without undermining the pillars of the UN.



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