



## IAEA 67<sup>th</sup> General Conference: Agenda Item 8: General Debate, 25 September 2023

Malta Statement (pre-recorded) delivered by the Hon. Dr Ian Borg, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Malta.

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First, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President and assure you of our delegation's full support.

Malta aligns itself with the European Union's statement but would like to add a few remarks in our national capacity.

The world faces a complex and challenging environment, aptly described as a "cauldron of crises" by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres. To address this, we must prioritize disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control, avoiding any **nuclear arms race**.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (**TPNW**), to which Malta is an original signatory, holds renewed importance, and we urge all nations to join.

Diplomacy and multilateralism remain our best tools to navigate these challenges. As a current **Member of the United Nations Security Council**, Malta is committed to upholding the rules-based international order.



President,

We express our strong support for the **IAEA**, led by the **DG Rafael Mariano Grossi**, in its role in maintaining global peace and security through the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT),

We commend IAEA's dedication to addressing the situation in **Ukraine, where the ongoing conflict poses a nuclear threat**. We appreciate efforts to secure the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP). Malta pledges full support, including financial assistance, to the IAEA's vital work in nuclear security.

President,

Regarding **Iran**, we emphasize the need for them, to hold and reverse nuclear escalation. We support negotiations to resolve the situation.

The **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)**'s illegal launches of using ballistic missile technology, and its nuclear related activities pose another serious threat to international peace and security. Malta strongly calls on the DPRK to return to the full compliance with the NPT, the IAEA's Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, and the Additional Protocol, and to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Malta supports all diplomatic efforts aimed at pursuing the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

President,

In the midst of global crisis, the IAEA remains a beacon of hope.



We appreciate the **Technical Cooperation Programme's support**, in various areas, from health to water conservation. Malta will sign the new Country Programme Framework 2024-2028 and support the DG's Rays of Hope initiative.

As the initiator of the International Day of Girls in Science, and the first country to be awarded the title of Capital of Women and Girls in Science, Malta remains a proud supporter of the **advancement of girls in STEM and in the nuclear field**.

President,

Diplomacy and multilateralism depend on the **sovereign equality of all Member States**. We call on those who have not yet accepted the amendment of Article VI of the Statute, to consider doing so.

Let me conclude, President, by reiterating my personal and my country's full support to the DG and the Agency's work in fulfilling its mandate, in these challenging times.

Thank you.