



PERMANENT MISSION OF MALTA
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE,
THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Statement of the Republic of Malta

68th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency

16 September 2024

Delivered by: Ms. Alberta Borg, Chargé d'affaires

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman

Allow me to begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, on your election. My delegation stands ready to offer you our unwavering support as we move forward together in this important work. We gladly join others in welcoming the Cook Islands and the Federal Republic of Somalia as new IAEA Member States.

Malta aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. However, I would like to add some thoughts from a national perspective.

Malta stands firmly behind the International Atomic Energy Agency and the outstanding leadership of Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi. The Agency's work is not just important—it is indispensable. It anchors the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and, in doing so, safeguards the peace and security that our world so desperately needs.

Our gathering today comes at a time of global turmoil, with crises emerging on multiple fronts. Malta believes that, in such challenging times, our best course is to reinforce the rules-based international order, with the United Nations Charter at its heart. Adhering to our commitments and obligations is the only way forward. We must do so with renewed energy, through collective, multilateral action.

The NPT remains a vital instrument in this effort. It must be fully, completely, and effectively implemented across all its pillars. Malta continues to champion its universalization. In this vein, we call on all member states to reject dangerous nuclear



rhetoric and posturing, which only serve to deepen divisions and mistrust. Instead, let us embrace the confidence-building measures offered by this very agency, which are designed to enhance our collective security.

The NPT should remain our guiding compass as we navigate these turbulent waters. Malta also renews its call for all nations to consider joining the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). This would be a clear and concrete step toward our shared goal: a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. President,

We commend Director General Grossi for his recent visit to Ukraine, where nuclear security has become one of the most pressing and alarming regional issues, following Russia's full-scale invasion and the unlawful seizure of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. We deeply appreciate the IAEA's proactive approach, its constant and transparent reporting, and the vital assistance it has extended to Ukraine. Malta fully supports the Director General's five principles, which are essential for averting a catastrophe at Zaporizhzhya, along with the seven indispensable pillars that uphold nuclear safety and security.

We also note with concern the recent reports from the IAEA regarding Iran. Malta welcomes the Agency's efforts at engagement and remains optimistic about the possibility of constructive discussions in the near future. That said, we are deeply concerned by the lack of progress in implementing the March 2023 Joint Statement. We call on Iran to address all outstanding safeguards issues and to work closely with the Agency to achieve full compliance with its obligations under the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

Malta remains gravely concerned by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's continued development of nuclear and ballistic missile programs in direct violation of UN Security Council resolutions. These actions pose a serious and growing threat to global peace and security. Malta strongly urges the DPRK to return to 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. We stand in full support of diplomatic efforts aimed at achieving the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Mr. President,

Malta is a proud supporter of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme, which continues to provide crucial assistance in tackling global challenges such as climate change, human health, and food security. We have been honored to contribute financially to key initiatives such as Rays of Hope and Atoms4Food. We look forward to actively participating in the upcoming Scientific Forum on Better Agriculture for Better Life, where our Ambassador for Organic and Sustainable Food will serve as a panelist. We are equally eager for the November 2024 IAEA Ministerial Conference, which will highlight the vital role of nuclear science and technology in addressing pressing issues like health, food security, water management, and climate change.

As the initiator of the International Day of Girls in Science, Malta remains deeply committed to advancing gender equality in the nuclear field. We are encouraged by the IAEA's achievement of a 48% representation of women in its secretariat and applaud the ongoing efforts of Women in Nuclear.

Mr. President,

Effective diplomacy is built on the principle of sovereign equality among nations. We urge those who have not yet accepted the amendment of Article VI of the Statute to reconsider and take this important step forward.

The work of the IAEA highlights the vital role of international cooperation, as its efforts in nuclear safety, energy, and science not only enhance global security but also support sustainable development. Looking ahead, it is essential that we stand together in promoting



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the peaceful use of nuclear energy—not only as a safeguard for security, but as a means to spur innovation, combat food and water shortages, improve healthcare, conserve our histories and more.

Our shared security and prosperity rely on our collective determination. Malta is committed to playing an active role in advancing toward a safer, fairer, and more sustainable world. In this regard, we call on all Member States to engage constructively, embrace inclusivity, and work toward a long-term vision of global peace.

Thank you.