



2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum 30 January 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Ms. Francesca Cassar
Africa, Economic and Development Coordinator of Malta to the UN, New York

Thank you, President.

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and its Member States and would like to add the following in its national capacity.

We welcome today's discussions as a continued reminder of the work that still lies ahead to ensure an inclusive achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and more concretely, poverty eradication – a key element embedded within each of the SDGs which are under review this year.

Malta, together with the European Union, is playing its part. The EU's Global Gateway Initiative will see 300 billion euro being invested over the next five years towards infrastructure, digital transformation, and green transitions; combining economic growth and a competitive social market economy that leaves no one behind, respects human rights and protects the environment.

We reaffirm that gender equality is an essential precondition to sustainable development and peace. Protecting and fulfilling the rights of the child should also form part of our common effort.



Nationally, Malta has steered partnerships based on the belief that when sustainable investments are facilitated, entire communities can be uplifted from financial poverty and re-joined into decision-making processes.

This is the core ethos behind Malta's Strategy for Africa, entitled 'Malta and Africa: A Strategy for Partnership 2020 - 2025', that focuses on a three-pronged approach which enables (1) increased business-to-business contact through Malta-based enterprises in Africa, (2) the sharing of best development practices, and (3) the pursuit of a wider diplomatic strategy.

In the past year alone, we have launched projects related to economic empowerment of Syrian refugees, the rehabilitation and social inclusion of physically disabled children and connecting students from different backgrounds.

Malta is also a strong partner of SIDS, and within the framework of its Island for Islands capacity-building initiative, has, among others, provided and continues to provide technical assistance in sectors such as water management. Malta has designed and led scholarship programmes at master's and PhD levels to SIDS nationals, and we are honoured that the UN Steering Committee on SIDS Partnerships recognised them through a UN SIDS Partnerships Award, within the Social Category, last year.



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To conclude, President, Malta firmly supports innovative and collaborative projects that harness the engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, women groups and human rights defenders, young persons, the private sector, and academia.

As a UN Security Council Member, Malta supports a whole-of-system approach towards sustainable development as a tool of peacebuilding because what communities – as agents of change – require is empowerment to respond to challenges and yield them into opportunities. We look forward to our discussions in this regard.

I thank you.