



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**
THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

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**Malta Statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Natasha Meli, Permanent
Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York
October 15, 2025, CR4**

Mr Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chair of this Committee session. Permit me also, to extend our congratulations to all members of the Bureau. You can count on Malta's full support and cooperation.

Malta aligns with the EU statement. I would like, now to make some comments in my national capacity.

Malta has consistently upheld the view that disarmament and non-proliferation are essential pillars of international peace and security, and remain central to preserving the rules-based multilateral order. In an increasingly complex global security environment, where geopolitical tensions and technological advances risk undermining existing norms, it is imperative that we reaffirm and strengthen our collective commitments.



Malta is a steadfast supporter of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) — the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and the foundation for pursuing nuclear disarmament. Ahead of next year's Revcon, we call on all States Parties to work constructively towards the full implementation of all three pillars of the Treaty, including tangible progress on Article VI, which obliges nuclear-weapon States to pursue negotiations in good faith towards disarmament.

Malta also fully supports the establishment of regional nuclear weapons free zones as mandated by Article VII of the NPT. Malta remains a strong advocate for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in this regard.

My country remains however concerned that the New START Treaty is about to expire on 6 February of next year and that negotiations for a successor treaty have not materialised. We believe nevertheless that there is an urgent need to preserve and achieve further reductions and limitations of deployed strategic nuclear arsenals. This is both in the interest of the security of all concerned and in the interest of the NPT. To this end,



together, with a number of other like-minded MS, Malta has joined the Joint Statement on NEW START in 1C.

While we underline the urgent need for a successor strategic arms control framework, in the meantime, we take note of recent statements by the United States and the Russian Federation indicating their intention to continue observing the New START Treaty's limits at least for another year. While we acknowledge this as a positive signal that can help maintain a degree of strategic stability, we nevertheless urge for concrete steps towards renewed arms control negotiations.

Mr Chairman,

Malta believes that disarmament is not only a security imperative but also a moral and humanitarian one. The catastrophic consequences of any use of nuclear weapons underscore the urgency of advancing towards their complete elimination.

Malta plays an active role in advancing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). In this regard, Malta is honoured to serve as Gender Coordinator under the TPNW until the next Review Conference



in 2026. In this capacity, and in line with our strong commitment to the Women, Peace and Security agenda, Malta organised, end of last week — together with Austria, South Africa and Mexico — a 1C side event to commemorate Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security whilst highlighting the vital role of gender perspectives in disarmament.

Meantime, Malta, together with a number of other States, has also joined, the cross-regional Joint Statement on Gender and Disarmament.

Malta further underlines the TPNW's complementarity with the Non-Proliferation Treaty, amongst others. At this juncture, we reiterate our call on all states that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the TPNW at the earliest possible date, as the strongest legal rejection of nuclear weapons. With each new signature and ratification, the global norm against nuclear weapons is strengthened..

Mr Chairman,

On the other hand, we register, with concern, the continued lack of progress on nuclear disarmament, and urge all nuclear-armed States to take concrete and irreversible steps to reduce their nuclear arsenals.



The IAEA plays an invaluable role in the context of nuclear non-proliferation, and we call for the universal adherence to its safeguards.

Malta also supports the immediate entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). We deeply regret the Russian Federation decision to withdraw its ratification of the CTBT. Meantime, we continue to call on the remaining Annex 2 States to ratify without further delay.

Mr Chairman,

Malta also attaches great importance to the universal adherence and full implementation of key disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, including the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention. We condemn any use of chemical weapons under any circumstances, and support the work of the OPCW in upholding the global norm against such weapons.

We are equally concerned by the risks posed by the proliferation of missiles and new emerging technologies, including autonomous systems and cyber capabilities. We stress the imperative to avoid an arms race in outer space.



Malta underlines furthermore the importance of retaining human control in the use of force, and has advocated for the prohibition of fully autonomous weapons, which are not in compliance with IHL.

Mr. Chairman,

In concluding, as a strong supporter of gender equality and women's rights, Malta will continue to support and to promote the full, active and meaningful participation of women, at all levels of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control fora.

Thank you.



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