



THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UN GENEVA

Seventy-fifth plenary session of the Executive Committee (ExCom)

Agenda Item 3 – General Debate

Statement by the Republic of Malta

14-18 October 2024

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High Commissioner,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malta aligns with the European Union Statement.

High Commissioner Grandi, your statement to this Executive Committee meeting has highlighted the deteriorating international situation, placing those affected in an ever-increasing vortex of vulnerability and helplessness. As you described so vividly, conflict-led displacement, humanitarian emergencies and existing situations that are compounded by the climate crisis present to us the grim reality of pressing situations around the world.

High Commissioner,

As our term on the UN Security Council draws to a close, our commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations remains undiminished. Malta is very concerned about the unfolding devastating situation in the Middle East. Over the past year, civilians and civilian infrastructure have been under targeted attacks with resultant significant loss of life, including those of thousands of women and children. Recent expansion of the operational theatre to Lebanon is causing further devastation to civilian lives and livelihoods for millions of people. We also unreservedly condemn the recent attack on UNIFIL peacekeepers. The risk of a region-wide conflict is now real. Its consequences are however predictable – further displacement and humanitarian emergencies.

High Commissioner,

The ongoing situation in Sudan also risks regional spill-over that would exacerbate an already acute situation in a fragile region. We call on all parties to determinedly find the route to peace and stability. In Ukraine, Russia's continued aggression has only resulted in further



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displacement, loss of life, and the condemnable forced deportation of children to areas under Russian control.

The situation in the Mediterranean remains precarious. Across different Mediterranean routes, we have seen yet again a significant increase in arrivals as a result of instability in the region, presenting significant challenges to all receiving countries, including my own.

High Commissioner,

As you reminded us in your remarks, it is now time to implement the pledges made during the Second Global Refugee Forum in 2023. We continue with our work to implement the pledges we made relating to sustainable return and reintegration; improved information dissemination; and enhanced services specifically designed for LGBTI persons, and separately, persons with disabilities.

Malta reiterates its support for the non-discriminatory and human rights-based approach implemented by UNHCR in its operations in the field, including the principles of age, gender and diversity. We maintain our view that values and principles enshrined in international law and international humanitarian law must be always respected.

High Commissioner,

Malta pays tribute to UNHCR personnel in the field who deliver essential services under often dangerous circumstances. We also thank the UNHCR Office in Malta, a valued partner in our continued work.

Thank you.