



Security Council Arria-formula meeting on mine action 12 December 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Mr Darren Camilleri
Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Chair

I begin by thanking Japan for organising today's meeting on this important topic. I also thank USG Lacroix and Ambassador Chhea for their briefings.

Malta has long recognised the significant role of mine action in stabilising post-conflict environments, ensuring the safety of civilians, and contributing to long-term peacebuilding. The presence of landmines, explosive remnants of war, and improvised explosive devices can leave devastating legacies that obstruct recovery efforts and threaten the lives of the most vulnerable ones.

Furthermore, the socio-economic impacts of mine contamination cannot be overstated. For this reason, mine action is also central to the implementation of the SDGs, as well as the recently adopted Pact for the Future.



Malta is strongly committed to strengthening cooperation and assistance efforts to achieve the effective implementation of the Anti-personnel mine ban Convention. In addition, Malta is a co-sponsor of the First Committee resolution on countering the threat posed by Improvised explosive devices.

Chair

Peacekeeping operations play a crucial role with regard to mine action. Their efforts in coordination with the UN Mine Action Service, as well as with local actors, have advanced the goals of stabilisation and peace in conflict-affected and post-conflict societies. We recognise the work carried out by UNMAS with MINUSCA in CAR, UNMISS in South Sudan, and UNISFA in Abyei, among others.

Malta strongly supports the inclusion of mine action in the early stages of peace operations, including by ensuring that peacekeepers, humanitarian workers, and local communities have the necessary training, equipment, and resources to address this threat.



Many countries continue to be heavily plagued by the presence of landmines, IEDs, and ERWs. As the Secretary-General noted in his report last year, one in three communities is estimated to be contaminated by explosive ordnance in Syria.

High levels of contamination are also registered in Sudan, since the outbreak of hostilities in 2023, as well as Yemen, Afghanistan, and other countries. In addition, nearly three years after Russia's full-scale invasion, Ukraine is now the most mined country in the world.

Children are among the most vulnerable and are disproportionately affected by ERWs. They are often victims of tragic accidents that leave lifelong physical and psychological scars. Malta emphasises the need for child-centred approaches to mine action and we strongly support comprehensive psychological and social support programs for the victims.



A key focus of our commitment is the recognition of the crucial role played by women with regard to mine action. They often hold crucial knowledge about the local environment and the presence of explosive hazards. We advocate for the integration of gender-transformative perspectives and for the participation of women in all stages of the process.

To conclude, Chair, we reiterate our strong commitment to eliminating the threat posed by landmines, ERWs and IEDs. To this end, the EU remains a major donor, having contributed over 174 million Euro to humanitarian mine action since 2023.

We strongly support the Security Council's active involvement on this issue, and we will continue to engage in other fora after the end of our term.

I thank you.