

REPUBLIC OF MALTA



Statement by

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Building productive capacities in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as well as Middle-Income Countries (MICs) for more resilient recovery and sustainable development in the post-COVID-19 era

10.00am EST, 20 October 2021 – UN Headquarters, New York

Madam Chair of the Second Committee
President of the Economic and Social Council

At the outset, Malta joins others in thanking you for convening today's timely Joint Meeting of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council. Today's debate serves as an occasion to continuously reflect on the interlinkages between these two important bodies which are mutually supportive to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Malta aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the European Union and would like to add the following in its national capacity.

A testament of the relevance that these two bodies hold is through this year's theme: "Building productive capacities in LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS as well as MICs for a more resilient recovery and sustainable development in the post-COVID19 era". Malta has always striven to safeguard, promote and work in the interests of these countries, fully aware of the challenges, many times shared, that they face, and which were exacerbated with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Malta is determined to see that the international community is fully aware of these challenges and is committed to play its role towards their resilient recovery.

On its part, Malta, as a small island state in a large UN family, is fully committed to be as pro-active as possible in this endeavour. Allow me to share Malta's experience in this regard, especially in the context of our work with SIDS. To this end, since January 2020, Malta has

been co-chairing, together with our partner Antigua & Barbuda, the UN Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS which works at assisting SIDS in establishing and promoting partnerships which contribute towards reaching the goals enshrined in the 2030 Agenda and under the framework of the SAMOA Pathway.

Through this platform, we have been tirelessly working towards the establishment of meaningful and effective capacity-building partnerships among and with SIDS, in particular in the context of the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has posed to the health sector, the tourism industry, the blue economy and the fields of renewable energy and water management – all equally important sectors for SIDS.

Complementing this work is the role of the Malta-based Commonwealth Small States Centre of Excellence and the Commonwealth Centre for Connected Learning Foundation, as well as through the regular awarding, as of this year, of scholarships at Masters and PhD levels to nationals of SIDS in various fields aimed at targeted capacity-building to address the specific needs of these states.

Such examples showcase the true value that partnerships hold towards building effective productive capacities based on the principles of sustainability and solidarity while ensuring women's meaningful and equitable participation. Malta therefore looks forward, and is fully committed, to continue working with international partners in addressing the challenges that LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS as well as MICs face, and in exploring the opportunities that may facilitate in the strengthening of their resilience underpinned by the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you.