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WHA78 – Statement by The Hon. Jo-Etienne Abela, Minister for Health and Active Aging of Republic of Malta, under Item 3: the General Debate / Discussion

Geneva, 19 May 2025

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Director General,
Distinguished colleagues,

Malta welcomes the adoption of the Pandemic Agreement. This is a momentous endeavor in fulfilling global health and multilateral cooperation. For smaller countries like Malta, it is comforting to behold the foundation for a safer, fairer, more transparent and united international community, wherein every country has a role to shape and benefit from global health security. We look forward to its finalization and implementation.

Malta reaffirms its financial support for the WHO through the Investment Round and we endorse the proposed increase in Assessed Contributions. We are confident that with this support, a compact, yet resilient WHO will fulfill its mandate with renewed vigour. Re-sizing and streamlining should not come at the expense of excluding smaller states from full representation.



Malta looks forward to furthering our co-operation with the WHO, the modernization and democratization of mental health services, development of information technology and its harnessing in sustainable health systems, recruitment/retention of human resources, and active ageing.

Allow me to signal Malta's rising alarm concerning the collapse of health services and the food and aid supply situation in conflict zones. Gaza and Ukraine still pine and hunger for peace and bread. And we are not deaf to the other tragedies, just a little further afield in Sudan and Yemen. The WHO's efforts in these perilous scenarios should be applauded, not hindered or worse. We call for solidarity, good sense and compassion.