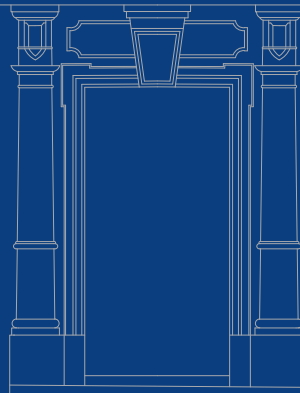
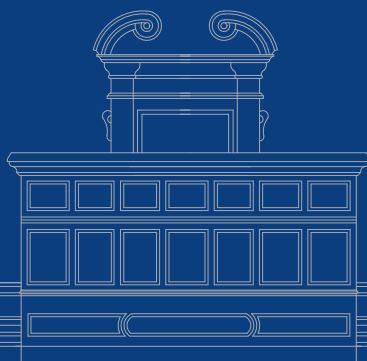




GOVERNMENT OF MALTA  
MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

# Malta's Foreign Policy Strategy





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Malta's foreign policy is based on a solid core belief system. In this respect, we have always adhered to our values and principles in formulating and implementing our policies.

## **Foreword by the Minister**

Departing with a clear, realistic and objective perspective in our foreign policy: fundamental and unshakable principles, respect for sovereignty and self-determination, respect for international law, the support of co-operation among states and encouragement of opportunities of dialogue.

These are the main principles of Malta's Foreign Policy, providing an outline for the next 10 years, with a set of objectives to be achieved by 2023. This is crucial for Malta to remain a credible and coherent actor in foreign policy, being able to respond to the needs and demands of the constantly changing global environment.

As laid out in this policy, the work of the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs revolves around different areas and sectors. Indeed, Malta is ready to engage in different facets of diplomacy such as commercial, cultural, digital or cyber. In all of this, the external network and representations abroad have a crucial role to play, especially for a small, independent and neutral state like Malta. While providing direct services to citizens, our diplomatic missions enable us to engage, shape our foreign policy and reach our objectives.

Our foreign policy should serve Malta's interests and its citizens, and promoting our values, beliefs and identity is essential. To do this, we need to continue to invest in strong bilateral and multilateral relationships, with all regions of the world, in a collaborative spirit for integrity, prosperity and stability.

Nevertheless, our immediate neighbourhood should be a priority. Being a Mediterranean island-state, we are surrounded by a sea which may

separate, but which can also unite. The region is experiencing a period of instability, and learning to live together, creating unity from our diversity, may be the biggest challenge of the times ahead. Malta seeks to continue to play an important role in peacebuilding and to advocate dialogue, as a neutral and reliable partner.

We are faced with a myriad of unprecedented challenges that require a concerted and unified effort. Malta stands united with the rest of the world in a joint effort to find solutions. We are ready to engage with new global realities, using diplomacy to make the world a better place to live.

**Hon. Evarist Bartolo**  
**Minister for Foreign**  
**and European Affairs**



This policy charts the way that Malta, as a sovereign state, continues to determine its place in the world.

## **Introduction by the Permanent Secretary**

Malta's foreign policy was shaped and nurtured throughout the years, in a tradition that dates much long before the country's Independence in 1964 and through the constitutional developments which have occurred since. This could only take place by means of visionary leadership and assiduous execution.

Our foreign policy represents the soul of a nation, capable in developing its own power structures through dialectical thinking, which shaped its own inalienable values. The value of Neutrality enshrined within our Constitution and our membership within the European Union were

both deemed controversial during their introduction, but they are now both considered as integral to our positioning on the international front.

Consequently, this policy is not only an attempt to devise a strategy on its own, but it fully contextualises the eco-system in which the country has to operate in, well anchored in a set of values which makes out of Malta a consistent and credible nation state. This policy is in itself a first, in the way it attempts to encompass the whole purpose of Malta's foreign policy and sets out a strategic framework based on three main strategic goals, expected to be revised by the time the defined period of its applicability will come to an end.

The objectives laid out in this document will be operationalised through the execution and monitoring of an action plan for each one of them. This will indeed serve as another

motivator for all the public officers and members of the diplomatic corps within the Ministry, to achieve more, collectively, and individually, promoting Malta's interests and values globally. Come year-end 2023, the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs will build upon this policy to provide a new strategic framework based on the endeavours that will characterize Malta's foreign policy at that juncture.

**Mr Christopher Cutajar**  
**Permanent Secretary**  
**Ministry for Foreign**  
**and European Affairs**

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**Malta's policy of neutrality safeguards its effectiveness and credibility, which in turn enables it to play a significant role in the maintenance of peace and security in the region and beyond.**

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# Guiding Principles

## Mission Statement

Malta's foreign policy is forged to **serve** the nation and its citizens, wherever they may be.

It reflects the traditions, diversity and strengths of the nation, and contributes to the ability to assert itself globally, the peace and security it enjoys, and the fundamental rights and values which establish its democracy. Malta seeks as much as possible to resolve disputes between other countries and commits itself with humility to promote UN charter values of choosing not to be a threat to others and promoting patient negotiations, compromise and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Malta is guided by the values of **neutrality**, insofar that neutrality is enshrined in its Constitution. Malta's neutrality does not mean that it is indifferent to what happens around it. Malta's policy of neutrality safeguards its effectiveness and credibility, which in turn enables it to play a significant role in actively promoting peace and security in the region and beyond. Malta strives to continue to advocate for **peace, security, and stability**,

dialogue, de-escalation, reason and the respect of international law. It will encourage and pursue initiatives that will project the principles of Malta's foreign policy including in support of peace-keeping and peace-building; the protection of civilians and humanitarian efforts; and non-proliferation and disarmament.

The foreign policy is shaped to secure and develop beneficial and peaceful bilateral and multilateral **relationships** with our neighbours in Europe, in the Mediterranean and in Africa, and with the greatest possible number of countries, contributing to the overall benefit of Maltese citizens in the process.

Malta's foreign policy also serves to increase **prosperity** and improve the livelihood of its citizens. In conjunction with other stakeholders, an effective foreign policy attracts investment and increases trade, and supports the efforts of Maltese businesses in overseas markets, with the objective of increasing wealth, prosperity and enterprise in Malta, including both inward and outward investment.

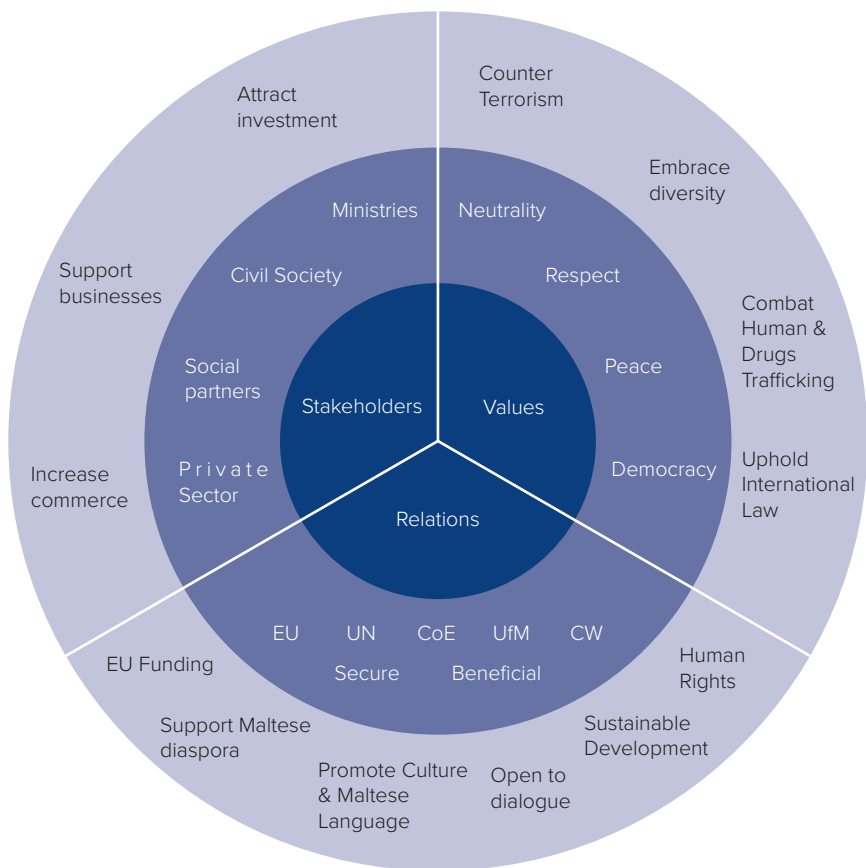




Malta's foreign policy also aims to support the promotion of its **culture**, the Maltese language and local talent overseas and facilitate cooperation and partnerships with other nation states, seeking to make known to the rest of the world the essence of what makes this country and its people warm, generous and resilient. This foreign policy aims at enabling the country to address adequately today's **challenges**, which include the climate emergency, security, international economic crime, the respect of and adherence to international laws, the development of ethical technologies, the respect of human rights, immigration, pandemics, terrorism, and the threat of nuclear arms. These challenges know no frontiers or borders, and Malta has to work together with the rest of the world for the common good.

Through its foreign policy, Malta seeks to continue to contribute effectively in the **multilateral system** on a regional and global level, to the agendas of the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Union for the Mediterranean and the Commonwealth, promoting democracy, human rights and sustainable development, and as a champion for small states.

This policy builds on the achievements of those who served and built this country, and had the courage to dream and work towards making Malta independent, a republic, without military bases, neutral and a member of the European Union; to live in a democracy while creating wealth and gainful employment, to improve the quality of life for Maltese citizens, Maltese living abroad and those who choose to live on the Maltese islands, embracing the values of inclusion and diversity.



## Scope

The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs (MFEA) is responsible for coordinating foreign policy and ensuring coherence across the Government. This document outlines Malta's foreign policy strategy, based on its interests and core values.

It is being shaped by the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs (MFEA) in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Although MFEA retains the overall responsibility to coordinate, consult and provide guidance on many of the areas identified, the underlying goals can only be reached through collaboration and cooperation with the whole country working together. As the number of partners involved in shaping policy continues to increase, it is vital to have a consistent, coherent, and a regularly updated policy to underpin Malta's work.

Malta follows a rules-based system and respect for international law. International law and its values are essential in providing security and stability for all nations, particularly small states. As a member state of the United Nations (UN) and European Union (EU), Malta's interests are best served by an international rules-based system and not in a global arena where might is right. Having agreed rules, standards and norms that govern international cooperation on peace and security, economic, financial, human rights, and social issues, provides stability and certainty. Rules, dialogue and diplomacy, rather than raw power, provide small yet internationally exposed and connected small countries like Malta with the highest level of protection.

As a small state, Malta is a bridge-builder, committed to neutrality, disarmament, peace and consensus through dialogue with all. Time and time again, small states can surprise by launching initiatives for the global public good that mobilise and galvanise the international community.

## Value System

### WHAT DOES MALTA STAND FOR?

Malta is guided by principles of peace, social justice, solidarity and human rights. Neutrality is enshrined in Malta's Constitution. With Constitutional neutrality as a guiding principle, Malta engages with all other countries in the spirit of openness and dialogue and strives to play a meaningful role in the maintenance of peace and security in the region and beyond.



**International law and its values are essential in providing security and stability for all nations, particularly small states.**



## **Context**

Malta is one of the smallest countries in the world in terms of land area, and the most densely populated member state of the European Union<sup>1</sup>. A foreign policy for a small island state at the trans-Mediterranean crossroads has to be fit for a highly competitive, turbulent environment.

An effective foreign policy has to guide and resonate with the many who work to implement foreign policy across countries, regions and niche interest groups, in the interest of Maltese citizens. It has to contribute significantly to find collective solutions to regional and global challenges that impact on the country. It has to navigate international conditions and manage connections that enable Maltese citizens to prosper, wherever they may be, and manage security environments meant to keep its citizens safe in Malta and elsewhere.

The following are crucial factors which are affecting the international context and Malta's operating environment:

**Globalisation:** In an increasingly interconnected world, the international environment in which nations operate is complex, unpredictable and subject to relentless change. A secure global environment requires international cooperation between all states. Global problems require global solutions.

**Political Change:** World politics and the global economy are continuously being shaped by political changes and decisions.

**Economic Change:** Profound changes in the structure of the global economy continue to alter the framework which nation-states operate in. One important economic driver is the rapid increase in physical and digital interconnectedness. Malta is a resourceful nation operating in a highly competitive environment.

**Environmental Change:** The environmental drivers of change, particularly climate change and environmental loss, are increasingly moulding foreign policy. The consequences of environmental change, including the degradation of ecosystems and air and marine pollution which are undermining

developmental progress and leading to the displacement of people, drought and other extreme events. If economic growth comes at the expense of the environment, this will ultimately have compelling repercussions on both prosperity, well-being, and security.

**Technological Change:** Data and information play an ever more important role. The digitalisation of all areas of life in cyberspace presents unparalleled opportunities, but also several risks. Cybersecurity has become more significant as a non-traditional security threat.

**The Covid-19 Pandemic:** The pandemic has completely changed the world as we know it. It has also brought a new dimension of 'unknowability'. The real consequences of Covid-19 for the immediate and medium-term future are yet to be determined. Like other countries, Malta will need to adapt to such changes and new realities, such as the uncertain global economic climate.



# Strategic Framework 2022 - 2023

In an open economy and society like Malta, domestic and foreign policy are totally interconnected and interdependent.

A major challenge to the implementation of a foreign policy is coordination and coherence between foreign and domestic policy. Apart from government, other important actors in crafting foreign policy include parliament, multinational companies, business organisations, civil society actors and international organisations. It is a primary goal of the MFEA to interface seamlessly and horizontally, as required, between public and private actors; but also vertically at national, bilateral, regional, multilateral and global levels.

Against this backdrop, Malta pursues its interests through its connections with others in its region and globally, capitalising on its chances of success

by working at different levels (fostering and leveraging relationships between leaders, individuals, agencies and institutions) and across different channels (building relationships between governments; securing frameworks for, and actively supporting, trade and business relationships; and encouraging and maximising the positive impact of people-to-people links). It is also important to note that the objectives set out in this strategy are to be fulfilled with a gender mainstreaming perspective that takes into account the interests and concerns of all genders.

Such alignment should continuously ensure that the aims set out under the Sustainable Development Goals, which cut across the implementation of policy both locally and globally, are considered to form an integral part of the policy design and implementation.



## Sustainable Development Goals

As a small island state with limited natural resources, an ever-growing economy and high population density, the concept of sustainable development has to be at the heart of Malta's economic, social and environmental development.

Malta recognises the 2030 Agenda as the most comprehensive global development plan thus far and its value lies in its universal and transformative nature. The 17 SDGs and accompanying targets offer a blueprint for a better future; preserving what we have today whilst working towards a better tomorrow.

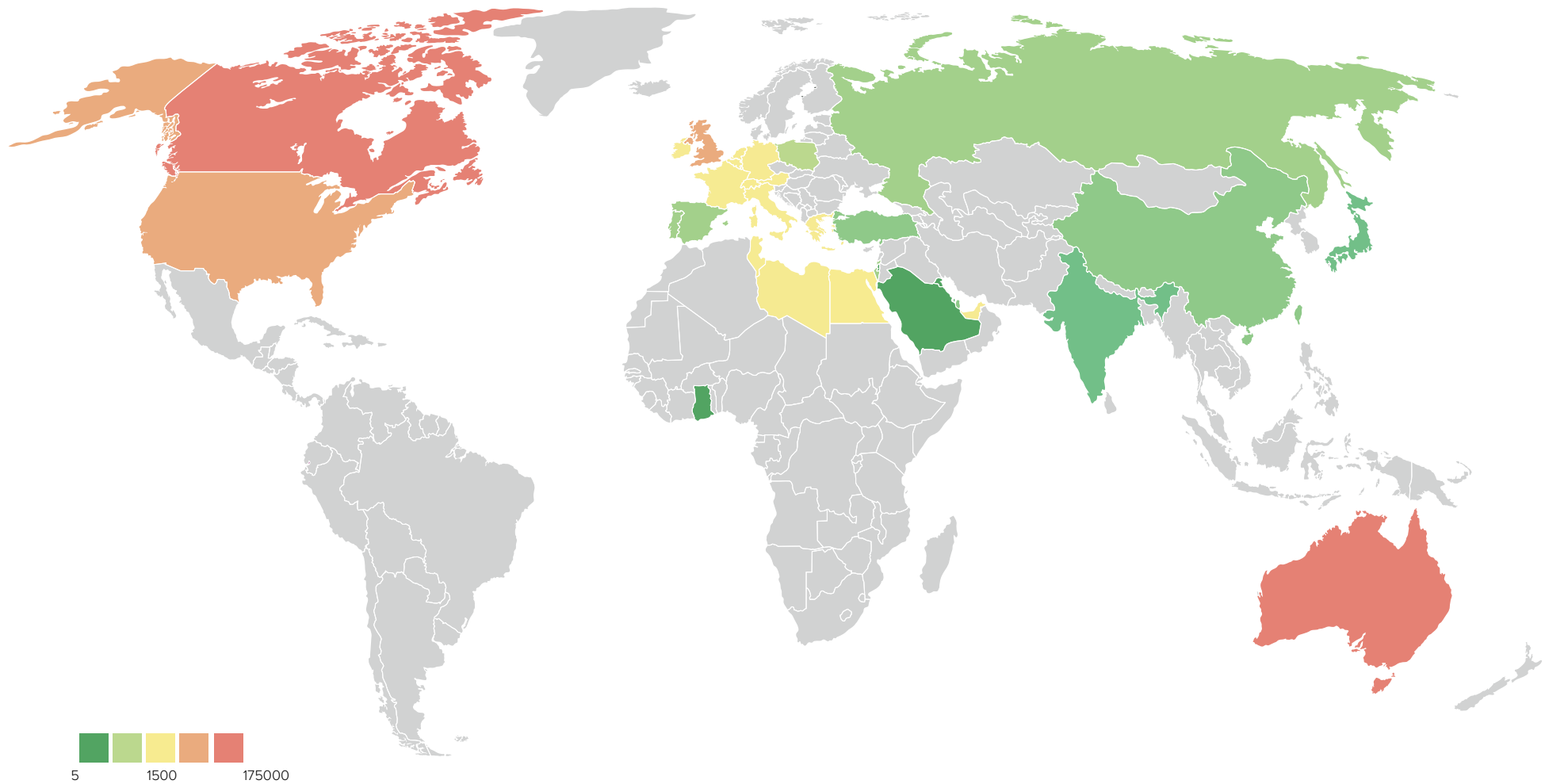
In the 2020 SDG Index, Malta was ranked 32nd out of 166 countries in the implementation of SDGs<sup>ii</sup>. This is a strong signal of Malta's commitment in achieving the goals, as Malta strives to improve on such progress.

Given the current levels of globalisation and interconnectivity, no single nation-state can advance in a sustainable manner without the collective support of other states, be it close or far. In the midst of ongoing efforts to address COVID-19, Malta acknowledges that reaching the goals by 2030 is a challenge for all, particularly small and developing states. Both bilaterally, and as a member of the EU, Malta seeks to engage with countries and institutions around the world, including the UN, in order to promote access to essential goods and services such as health, education and employment. Malta remains committed to continue on this journey of sustainability and stands ready to work in partnership with other States and International Organisations in this regard.





## Maltese Diaspora



\*It is to be noted that the Maltese Government does not keep a compulsory register of Maltese living abroad, and therefore this is an indicative map which may not be entirely representative. These figures include third generation of Maltese living in a country where Malta has got its own Missions. Data relies on census figures provided by the respective governments and voluntary registrations received at the Ministry through relevant forms.

## Strategic Goals

Based on Malta's interests and values, the following three strategic goals and their emanating objectives, set out the direction of Malta's foreign policy until 2023. The goals outline the purpose and the impact that the foreign policy seeks to reach, identifying objectives and priorities.

### **Strategic Goal 1: Support values, well-being and prosperity of Maltese citizens**

As a sovereign state, Malta is committed to look after the well-being and prosperity of its citizens in Malta and abroad. This includes all sectors of society and particularly the most marginalised and vulnerable, through the building of targeted international relationships.

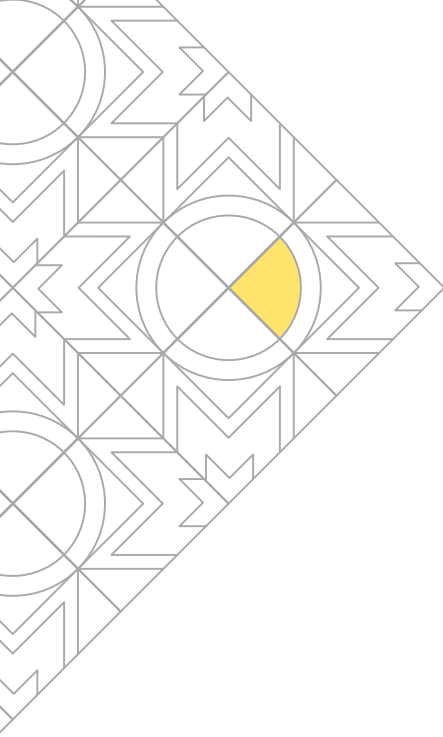


Malta's foreign policy aims to contribute to the overall national economic strategy and helps realise the vision of a productive, sustainable, and inclusive economy that will be carbon neutral by 2050. This is also in line with 'Wellbeing First: A Vision for Malta's Environment, National Strategy for the Environment 2050', having a firm belief that a high quality of life and the well-being of citizens is also an integral part of a prosperous society. Providing market access and diversified international connections, aligned with a broad and differentiated economic strategy, helps make Maltese companies overseas and foreign businesses in Malta more competitive and viable and upskill jobs. This also makes Malta more resilient to change and external shocks.

Trade and investment are essential for Malta's prosperity and quality of life. Overseas markets allow local businesses to grow to a scale that could not happen domestically. Given Malta's small market, globalisation is not an option but an inevitable necessity. High quality foreign direct

investment contributes capital necessary for economic growth and overseas investment assists Maltese businesses to obtain greater value from customers overseas. As a small nation committed to thriving by trading and sharing with the world, Malta acknowledges that prosperity is to be sought and secured by means of sourcing and expanding international relations.

The dynamic global environment in which Maltese businesses operate presents opportunities and challenges. The transition to a low carbon global economy is gathering pace; digital connectivity is transforming commerce, and protectionism is a growing threat. All of this against the backdrop of Covid-19. The withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the EU has also compelled Malta to revisit the long-standing relations with the UK, with a view to deepen and explore



new spheres of interest, especially since the two nations share close historical, economic, and social ties.

Through commercial diplomacy, Malta seeks to create and maintain a positive and favourable business environment that can enhance prosperity. This includes a growth in opportunities for Maltese businesses to invest in export markets, and to have a more diverse market access, for a wide range of Maltese goods and services exports, resulting in increased export earnings. The development and consolidation of long-lasting multilateral and bilateral relationships are key in this regard. Malta seeks to actively sustain deep and complex relationships to advance and protect its interests; invest new efforts to focus on key relationships with influencers on the global stage; and ensure that it has

the basis for understanding, built through its connections, to identify new opportunities and manage risks.

Economic agreements and trade initiatives also play an important role. Malta seeks to conclude further bilateral agreements such as Double Taxation Agreements (DTAs) to broaden its access to foreign markets. Such agreements are crucial tools to enhance Malta's competitiveness and status as a business centre.

With Malta being a very active international finance centre specialised in corporate and transaction banking and fund management, it is essential that Malta effectively addresses money laundering and financing of terrorism risks. Malta has undertaken significant efforts to show its effectiveness in a sustainable manner, successfully



**Malta's track record in regulating emerging technologies such as digital ledger technology has pushed it to the forefront among global digital hubs.**



enacting related legislation and enhancing cooperation between competent authorities. International cooperation is also key in this regard, as Malta aims to work closely with international partners to achieve the desired results.

Malta's track record in regulating emerging technologies such as digital ledger technology has pushed it to the forefront among global digital hubs. Malta was also the first state worldwide to deploy digital education certificates on the Blockchain. Malta seeks to use this experience to grow the sector further and promote innovation, while at the same time engaging in policy processes on consumer protection, data governance, and market regulation at regional and global levels.

Malta aims to leverage on local organisations' expertise in education and technology. Through their formal and informal global networks, these institutions operate as thought leaders for innovation and global policymaking and can contribute significantly to Malta's efforts in education and technology diplomacy. Malta also aims to support partner organisations operating out of Malta engaged in international projects.

Malta aims to further develop its digital diplomacy profile by building internal capacity and know-how that can lead to improvements in identifying and exploiting national and international opportunities through digitalisation, using digital technology across its foreign policy work.

## OBJECTIVES

- 1.1** Support connections between Maltese individuals/ organisations, including Maltese citizens living abroad, and international counterparts.
- 1.2** Protect and project Malta's interests and brand, in relation to international markets.
- 1.3** Support Maltese interests through the WTO, including its monitoring, negotiation and dispute settlement functions.
- 1.4** Explore and identify nations and opportunities in which economic agreements and trade initiatives can be pursued.
- 1.5** Provide support for trade missions, investment and tourism promotion, overseas in collaboration with stakeholders and overseas agencies.
- 1.6** Work with international partners to continue building on recent progress in relation to the enforcement of the rule of law, with particular attention to anti-corruption and anti-money laundering measures.
- 1.7** Engage in regional and global policy debates on the development of emerging and advanced technologies.
- 1.8** Develop a digital diplomacy profile for Malta, based on legacy pilot projects and the country's potential to leverage geography, size, expertise, and openness to emerging technologies.



## **Strategic Goal 2: Promote Peace, Security and Dialogue**

As a neutral nation, constantly advocating dialogue, Malta supports and works to strengthen a rules-based international system as the basis to secure peace for its citizens. This is the only viable response to the challenges all nation states face, and especially small states. The mitigation of security threats and the contribution to a more stable global environment, are central to Malta's foreign policy.

Security threats to a nation state come in many forms. There are no prescriptive solutions to security threats, except that the root causes of such threats need to be addressed comprehensively. Malta is navigating an increasingly polarised, complex and dynamic international security landscape, with greater security challenges and instability in its region and beyond. The rules-based international order is under pressure from state and non-state actors alike. At the same time, every increasing trans-border security threat, directly impacts on Malta's security, as well as places further pressures on the international system. These pressures erode state sovereignty, amplify other threats and add greater complexity to how Malta steers its international relations in a polarised world, where countries in conflict request others to take their side.

In such global environment, Malta needs to be vigilant and to deliberate in mitigating these threats. This requires it to take action in response to direct threats to national security. It also requires the broadening and deepening of its bilateral security cooperation, and to advance collective security and defend the rules-based international order through contributions to global peace and security and disarmament initiatives. Through its foreign policy, Malta aims to continue its contribution towards global counter-proliferation efforts to help prevent the further spread of

nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons, and new military technology such as killer robots.

Malta is party to numerous international agreements intended to ensure a peaceful world. This is also both an investment in, and an expectation of, mutual security relationships and an improvement in the ability to advance other foreign policy interests. Malta is committed to the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), and supports the EU's crisis response and management efforts aimed at promoting peace and stability in the immediate and extended neighbourhood and to support partners manage their security and secure their borders.

For national prosperity and security, Malta needs peace and stability in the Euro-Med region. Malta is an active and integral partner in support of regional stability in the Euro-Med region, Africa and beyond, and continues to strive to make a positive contribution to the enhancement of security in the Mediterranean, to lead dialogue on issues such as the displacement of persons, irregular migration, trafficking of human beings, and the need to harness mobility for human equality. Malta also recognizes that the regions south of the Mediterranean are also part of Europe's extended neighbourhood, and development and stability in such regions are crucial. Consequently, crisis management,





humanitarian action and civilian missions are also key aspects of Malta's role in promoting peace and security. They help in no small way to address security risks; but also to prevent conflict, rebuild institutions and where possible reintegrate all members of society in post-conflict situations.

Malta is committed to intergovernmental confidence-building; to provide good offices in relation to cyberspace; and to explore new avenues such as the promotion of science diplomacy. Malta is also committed to engage effectively in cyber diplomacy, which aims to advance multilateral agreements on cyber norms, responsible state and non-state behaviour in cyberspace, and effective global digital governance. The goal is to create a stable and secure cyberspace anchored in international law through alliances between like-minded countries, organisations, the private sector, civil society and experts.

Malta has played a dynamic role in ensuring that climate change would

remain a matter of high-level attention for the international community.

In fact, in 1988, Malta was the first country to formally table the issue of climate change as a political agenda item during the 43rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly. As an island state, Malta is at the forefront of the negative impacts of climate change and believes that the climate crisis together with environmental conservation need to be addressed with urgency on a global level. Through its foreign policy, Malta will continue to advocate for global action and strengthen international cooperation.

Malta also works to uphold the principles of human rights and equality in its society and globally. On this note, Malta is committed towards the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security,

as outlined in Malta's National Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2020 – 2024). Furthermore, Malta promotes the alliance of civilizations through dialogue of religions and advocating ethical values. Malta prioritises the values and culture of human rights and democracy without self-righteousness and is fully aware that these values are fragile everywhere and require ongoing commitment locally and overseas.

Increasing the safety of Maltese citizens at home and overseas is also a priority. Maltese citizens should be able to live, do business, travel and communicate in a safe environment. It is to be ensured that Maltese citizens are provided with accurate and timely information that enables them to make informed decisions about travelling, working, studying or settling down overseas; and that Maltese citizens abroad can easily access high-quality consular service, advice and assistance, especially in cases of emergencies.

Cultural diplomacy is an effective tool to promote Malta's profile, values and interests. As a country that constantly promotes dialogue, particularly in the region, external communication actively helps shape the perception of Malta abroad by explaining Malta, its positions, and its strengths, as well as its domestic and foreign policy actions through targeted communication activities. To encourage dialogue,

Malta also aims to promote talent in small states, through the rich pool of expertise that Malta can call upon, from its own population or its expatriate community.

In an effort to increase its effectiveness and contribution to the peace and security agenda, Malta has presented its candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for a two-year mandate commencing on 1 January 2023. If elected, this would be the second time that Malta would serve on the UNSC, having first served in 1983-1984. The UNSC is the most important international body for the promotion of peace and security, and is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states. Malta has chosen security, sustainability and solidarity as the three pillars on which it aims to build its work during this two-year mandate. This will be a crucial opportunity for Malta to contribute in no small way towards the achievement of peace and security, as Malta will be the voice for justice, moderation, understanding and tolerance.

## OBJECTIVES

- 2.1** Promote people to people connectedness through cultural diplomacy initiatives.
- 2.2** Advocate to strengthen global ambitions to combat climate change, and halt and reverse environmental loss, through and for international and regional support, transboundary collaboration and finance for climate and biodiversity action, particularly in the Euro-Med region and Africa, and SIDS. Support Malta's domestic climate action and transition to a green and low emissions economy, including linking arrangements and standards for carbon markets that ensure environmental integrity.
- 2.3** Develop closer relationships with neighbouring countries, with a primary focus on stability and security in the Euro-Med region and Africa. Build cooperation on identifiable issues.
- 2.4** Work through the OSCE to strengthen democratic institutions and human rights, including media freedom.
- 2.5** Prepare to lead dialogue on issues, such as as the displacement of persons, irregular migration, trafficking of human beings, and the need to harness mobility for human equality.
- 2.6** Collaborate with Ministers and the national security sector on defence, national security and intelligence matters to advance foreign policy interests and/or manage foreign policy risks. Advise government on a broad range of military, diplomatic and development contributions to international security initiatives, including military and other peace support missions, and help to manage those contributions.
- 2.7** Engage in relevant bilateral, multilateral and multi-stakeholder fora that seek to promote a global, open, stable and secure cyberspace.

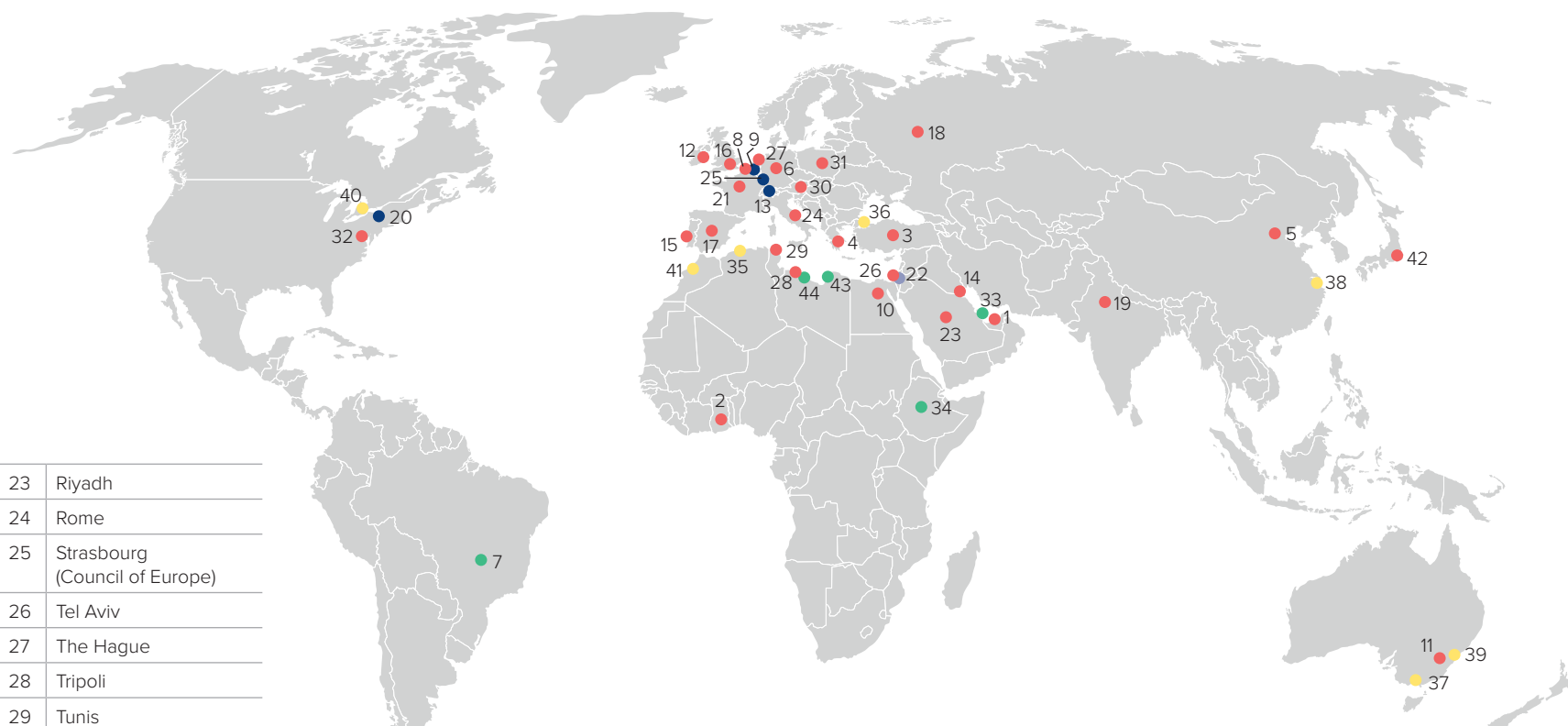
## Maltese Diplomatic Missions

1	Abu Dhabi
2	Accra
3	Ankara
4	Athens
5	Beijing
6	Berlin
7	Brasilia
8	Brussels
9	Brussels (EU Permanent Representation)
10	Cairo
11	Canberra
12	Dublin
13	Geneva (UN Permanent Representation)
14	Kuwait City
15	Lisbon
16	London
17	Madrid
18	Moscow
19	New Delhi
20	New York (UN Permanent Representation)
21	Paris
22	Ramallah

23	Riyadh
24	Rome
25	Strasbourg (Council of Europe)
26	Tel Aviv
27	The Hague
28	Tripoli
29	Tunis
30	Vienna
31	Warsaw
32	Washington
33	Qatar
34	Addis Ababa
35	Algiers
36	Istanbul
37	Melbourne

38	Shanghai
39	Sydney
40	Toronto
41	Casablanca
42	Tokyo
43	Benghazi
44	Misrata

<span style="color: red;">●</span>	Embassy
<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	Consulate
<span style="color: darkblue;">●</span>	Multilateral Diplomatic Mission
<span style="color: green;">●</span>	Diplomatic Mission in Progress
<span style="color: purple;">●</span>	Representative Office



### **Strategic Goal 3: Maximise opportunities for influence in strategic regions and multilateral fora**

Malta strives for partnerships of trust with all countries and believes that it can develop resilience for the country during troubled times, in geographic regions of interest.

Malta seeks to strengthen its standing in the international community as a reliable and principled partner, responsive to and aligned with evolving global needs. States that act as mediators have an important role to play, particularly in troubled times. Malta works to continue to enhance its reputation as a sober, modest, steadfast, discreet, and neutral mediator, and intends to continue to develop capacities to contribute to peaceful conflict resolution as a mediator, and facilitate processes in this respect, including Malta's role as a host state.



Malta aims to develop and nurture coalitions to support common security and economic interests in regional and cross-regional forums. Achieving such objectives as a small country in this complex environment relies on the ability to make Malta relevant, to project influence through coalitions of like-minded countries, frameworks and shared rules and norms, and to build and leverage relationships. The multilateral system needs to adapt and change in response to new phenomena. Where there are international rules, Malta needs to work with others to ensure that they are respected. Where new rules and norms are needed, Malta has to contribute in how they are shaped for the common good.

On a European level, as one of the EU 27, Malta will continue to pursue active and effective participation in the European Union's decision-making processes, raising its profile, relevance and credibility. Malta aspires to continue to ensure that important matters of national interest are raised high on the European Union's agenda while continuing to be a team-player in the day-to-day construction of a stronger European Union. As the smallest EU Member State, Malta seeks to ensure that its interests are not only protected, but also strengthened, particularly as an island Member State lying on the periphery of Europe, with different socio-economic realities. Coordination and coherence are essential to maintain effective participation at an EU level. Malta will continue to closely support future enlargement of the EU in accordance with an appropriate pace of successful

absorption  
in the  
interests of a  
well-integrated  
Union.

On a global level, Malta is also a proud and active participant within the United Nations. Malta fully recognises the importance of having a rules-based multilateral system with the UN at its core. Malta continues to uphold the importance of promoting international cooperation, firm in the belief that global problems require global solutions which can only be achieved through active collaboration and dialogue. As history has shown, and as indeed it is being witnessed today with the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, the global community needs to revitalise and refocus its efforts through multilateral endeavours and international cooperation, to secure lasting solutions to the world's ongoing challenges and problems. Throughout the years, Malta has taken numerous initiatives towards contributing to dialogue on various issues at the UN, such as efforts towards the Law of the Sea and Ocean Governance, and aims to continue its contribution, especially on matters which are of significant interest.



Malta believes that it has a significant role to play in championing the interests of small states, in particular of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). SIDS share a number of characteristics, in particular on the social, economic and environmental fronts. SIDS face a host of challenges such as the high exposure to international markets, insularity and geographic remoteness and economic dependence on larger states. Consequently, many SIDS face higher costs for importation and exportation of goods; they are penalized in terms of global supply chains and are reliant on external markets for income generation, due to their limited domestic markets. The COVID-19 pandemic in particular has exacerbated issues such as food insecurity, climate resilience and disrupted supply chains. Malta seeks to take the opportunity to promote and safeguard the interests of SIDS in all relevant international fora of which it forms part.

Malta will continue to participate in international and multilateral fora such as the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM); the 5+5 Western Mediterranean Dialogue; the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF); the Sommet des Deux Rives (S2R) and the MED9 Group. Malta will also continue to support the European Commission & League of Arab States Office (ECLASLO) hosted in Malta and leverage long-established relations with other international and national organisations in the Maghreb, Mashreq and Gulf regions.

Malta's foreign policy has been largely conditioned by its main focus on Mediterranean, European and North African affairs due to the direct impact of developments in these regions as well as neighbourly political connections. Nonetheless, Malta seeks to strengthen bilateral trans-Atlantic relations with South American countries, through the establishment of the first resident diplomatic presence in Brasilia, to seek new political and economic opportunities.

Additionally, in line with Malta's Strategy for Africa, entitled 'Malta and Africa: A Strategy for Partnership 2020 – 2025', Malta seeks to continue to strengthen its cooperation with Sub-Saharan African countries and the African Union. The strategy responds to the demands of a changing Africa and charts how Malta can deepen its relations with African nations, through Official Development Assistance, economic cooperation, capacity development, and the creation of new opportunities that are mutually beneficial to Malta and Africa. Subsequently, Malta will continue to work towards achieving the strategic objectives laid out in such strategy. In this regard, Malta continues to support the EU-Africa Strategy adopted in 2020 which further calibrates its objectives.

## OBJECTIVES

- 3.1** Advocate for Malta's interests in the governance, priorities and delivery programmes of international institutions, and increase Malta's reputation and influence in key institutions.
- 3.2** Ensure that the disbursement of Official Development Assistance (ODA) is well aligned with the strategies embarked by the Ministry in different regions.
- 3.3** Strengthen bilateral trans-Atlantic relations with South American countries, through the establishment of the first resident diplomatic presence in Brasilia, to seek new political and economic opportunities.
- 3.4** Continue to strengthen relations with African countries. Ensure that the strategic objectives set in Malta's Strategy for Africa are being met, with tangible results being achieved.
- 3.5** Sustain support for the EU accession process of the Western Balkan countries and their reforms in the rule of law, fundamental rights, public administration reform and economic governance, in full respect of the basic principles of conditionality and own merits.
- 3.6** Ensure that Malta's work and interests are strengthened at an EU level, through better cooperation, coordination and active participation.
- 3.7** Develop regional framework policies for other strategic regions and continents, including the Gulf and the Asia-Pacific.
- 3.8** Promote and advocate for the interests of small states and Small Island Developing States in international fora.



This policy is in itself a reflection of the way Malta has moulded its foreign policy throughout the years, forging an identity of its own, which is both principled and pragmatic, proving to be balanced in its approach and well regarded in view of its consistency.

## Conclusion

Throughout the recent decades, Malta has shown that it has an important role to play in global diplomacy. It is Malta's duty to participate effectively and to shape efforts in areas where it holds expertise.

Malta's support for political, economic and religious freedoms, liberal democracy, the rule of law, racial and gender equality and mutual respect, reflects its values and engagement with the world. Underpinning a strong, fair and cohesive society at home is a source of influence for Malta internationally. In fact, Malta has proven to be a reliable partner, fully aware of its own boundaries, and at the same time, its potential and vantage position to more fully understand the predicament of other states, thus being able to contribute effectively to improve their condition.

The guiding principles represent the inalienable values into which the three strategic goals of this policy are inculcated. The three pillars of this framework bring together the various



roles that Malta will continue to exercise; by relentlessly supporting the various stakeholders within society; serving as an active advocate for peace, dialogue and security; and building upon its own international standing to be able to grasp new beneficial opportunities. The engagement amongst local stakeholders, and the consolidation of international relations at all levels, will determine the level of success of this policy.

Fully aware that MFEA serves as the main interface between Malta and the outside world, the role of the Maltese diplomatic corps is greatly valued as the promoter of Malta's foreign policy on the international front. Such human capital is deemed crucial in achieving the objectives laid out in this policy, and MFEA is committed to continue investing in such invaluable resource. The MFEA is set to gear up and put this strategic framework into practice, by seeking to build capacity through a systematic outreach, mindful of the positive outcomes that a multi-disciplinary approach can provide.

Malta's strong democratic institutions, an open society, and a sustainable economy, will be fundamental for the well-being of this country and its contribution to the outside world. Malta will continue to serve as a trustworthy international partner and will once again be considered as a testimony of a vibrant country characterised by its keenness to embrace the opportunities of the future.

## Acronyms

<b>ALF</b>	Anna Lindh Foundation
<b>CoE</b>	Council of Europe
<b>CSDP</b>	Common Security and Defence Policy
<b>CW</b>	Commonwealth
<b>ECLASLO</b>	European Commission-League of Arab States Liaison Office
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>MED9</b>	An alliance of nine Southern European Union Member States <sup>iii</sup>
<b>MFEA</b>	Ministry for Foreign & European Affairs
<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance
<b>OSCE</b>	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Developing States
<b>S2R</b>	Sommet des Deux Rives
<b>UfM</b>	Union for the Mediterranean
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>UN</b>	United Nations

## References

- <sup>i</sup> [https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.DNST?locations=EU&most\\_recent\\_value\\_desc=true](https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.DNST?locations=EU&most_recent_value_desc=true)
- <sup>ii</sup> <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/rankings>
- <sup>iii</sup> Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain

