

Malta's Official Development
and Humanitarian Assistance Policy

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Malta

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1. Introduction

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** was adopted by the international community in September 2015. It includes at its core 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets, which run to 2030. The SDGs build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and aim to go further to end all forms of poverty. By virtue of this Agenda, the international community set itself an ambitious new framework through which countries are expected to take ownership for the achievement of the SDGs, while working together on shared challenges. In response to the global trends and challenges identified in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in 2017 the EU and its Member States jointly agreed to the adoption of the **European Consensus on Development**. The Consensus sets out the main principles which will guide the approach of the EU and the Member States to cooperate with developing countries, as well as a strategy for reaching the SDGs. In line with the global strategy on the EU's foreign and security policy, the Consensus will also help achieve the priorities of the EU's external policy. The overarching goal is the eradication of poverty, by promoting good governance, human and economic development and tackling universal issues, such as fighting hunger and preserving the world's natural resources.

The Consensus is intended to respond to the current global challenges which have a **demographic, economic, social and environmental impact**. Strengthening the resilience of states, societies and individuals is central to this approach. It seeks to bring about sustainable development and to accelerate transformation by placing an emphasis on cross-cutting elements of development policy such as gender equality, youth, investment and trade, sustainable energy and climate action, good governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights, and migration and mobility. **Better-tailored partnerships** are to be sought with a broader range of stakeholders, including civil society, and partner countries at all stages of development. They will further improve their implementation on the ground by working better together and taking into account their respective comparative advantages. In order to achieve more effective results and make a greater impact, the Consensus proposes a **tailored and differentiated approach** when working with partners to promote **joint programming and implementation**, with the **full involvement of civil society and other actors**. It provides the basis for the EU and its Member States to engage in more innovative forms of development financing, leveraging **private sector investments** and mobilising additional domestic resources for development. In so doing, the

Consensus likewise seeks to actively support the further implementation of the ambitious Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP) adopted at the November 2015 Valletta Summit on Migration.

This document is an update to Malta's **Implementation Plan** in response to the adoption of the European Consensus on Development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and sets the lines for Malta's Official Development Policy (ODA) through to 2030. It has been formulated by the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs in close consultation and partnership with relevant partners and stakeholders.

Malta's ODA Policy will continue to be implemented through partnerships and cooperation with national, international and regional organisations, the private sector, Non-Governmental and civil society organisations, and academia. These allow the Ministry to pool knowledge and experience with the aim to achieve greater transformative impact on the ground and in support of partner countries' priorities and their efforts to achieve the SDGs and climate action. Cooperation with the above continues to be of the utmost importance to operationalise Malta's Official Development Policy.

2. What is Official Development Assistance?

Official Development Assistance is defined as government aid designed to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Malta remains committed towards reaching the sustainable development targets of the 2030 Agenda, while at the same time endeavours to reach the furthest behind, to achieve equity and to leave no one behind.

3. Implementation Plan

The Government of Malta's Official Development Assistance Implementation Plan will establish collaborative avenues with different stakeholders and national, regional and multilateral partnerships, to tackle global challenges in the national interest. In particular, as part of its overall policy of supporting and advocating for the human rights of all citizens,

both in Malta and abroad, the Government of Malta will devote resources towards the following goals:

- a. Reduction of poverty and social inequality;
- b. Equal rights for women and girls;
- c. Inclusive, equitable quality education and capacity building.

In line with the *Malta and Africa: A Strategy for Partnership 2020-2025*¹, Malta will continue to give priority to Africa, as a means of promoting stability and prosperity in Malta's and Europe's immediate neighbourhood and beyond, especially where Malta has diplomatic representation. , as a means of further maximising the effectiveness and impact of our Malta's capacity building and capacity partnership efforts and by virtue of the already existing channels for bilateral relations.

a. Reducing poverty and social inequality

Human progress in recent decades has been uneven. Alongside remarkable advances there remain serious concerns and deprivation, persistent poverty and heightened inequalities.

Many people, still live in extreme poverty, struggling to fulfil the most basic needs like access to water, health and education, to name a few.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic struck globally, baseline projections suggested that 6% of the global population would still be living in extreme poverty in 2030, missing the SDG target of ending poverty. The fallout from the pandemic threatens to push over 70 million people into extreme poverty.

In this regard, Malta will continue encouraging and promoting stakeholder involvement to improve and support the most vulnerable in developing countries and people most at risk, in the spirit of solidarity, which is one of the main strategic objectives that Malta fairly upholds.

b. Equal Rights for Women and Girls

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises '*no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable*

¹ https://meae.gov.mt/en/Public_Consultations/MFTP/Documents/Africa%20Strategy%202020-2025.pdf

development'. All 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the 2030 Agenda have global, national and local consequences. The two SDGs most relevant to the Women, Peace and Security agenda are Goals 5 and 16. The Women, Peace and Security agenda is recognised as a prerequisite for the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and as essential for transformative change towards security, human rights, and development. At the same time, the 2030 Agenda provides an important framework to refocus and strengthen Malta's approach to women, peace and security, clearly highlighting the network between gender equality, conflict and development and the need to link national and international focus on women, peace and security.

It is in this vein that Malta's National Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2020-2024) is closely aligned with this Ministry's Development Policy, which includes equal rights for women and girls as one of its thematic priorities for the years ahead.

c. Inclusive, equitable quality education and capacity building.

Fully cognisant of the prominent role of education towards sustainable development, the Government of Malta has for a number of years provided funds for scholarships to enhance the continued educational and professional development of eligible candidates and their communities, institutions and societies. Malta remains committed to continue providing such scholarships. The Ministry will continue promoting the positive impact of capacity building and to strengthening Malta's role in the granting of scholarships, while also offering capacity building opportunities to assist ODA eligible states in attaining the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda.

In this regard, this Ministry shall seek to maximise the synergies of its partner entities, namely the University of Malta, the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, the Commonwealth Centre for Connected Learning, the Commonwealth Small States Centre of Excellence, the International Small States Institute and DiploFoundation, as well as consider additional partner entities, with a view to avail itself of the expertise developed by each of these entities in training and capacity building, and to support its strategic policy objectives. Moreover, the Ministry shall endeavour to create partnerships for the effective

implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by providing capacity building opportunities through international cooperation, thereby also ensuring that all the relevant resources within this Ministry (Commercial, Commonwealth, Cultural, Development and Small States) operate within a coordinated and structured framework ensuring coherence in contributing towards the same complementary aims and objectives:

- Climate change
- Peace building and security
- Blue growth and blue economy
- Ocean governance
- Water resource policies and technologies
- Trade and investment
- Sustainable development
- Small states and small island states
- Gender equality

This list of priority themes may be adapted and updated periodically according to developing trends and realities.

4. Framework for Humanitarian Assistance.

In recognition of the direct link between humanitarian assistance and development, of the mutual benefit of working in tandem rather than in silos, and of the continuum between emergency relief, rehabilitation and development, Malta shall continue to contribute, financially and/or in-kind, to assist the nationals of ODA eligible countries affected by natural or man-made disasters through humanitarian or development assistance. Such funding / contributions shall be made primarily, but not exclusively, through Trust Funds, international humanitarian organisations and UN-led initiatives. If and where applicable, cooperation with pertinent local Non-Governmental Organisations and other relevant stakeholders shall likewise be sought and promoted.