Mr President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Dear friends,

Thank you and my congratulations to the government of Türkiye, especially the city of Antalya for the excellent organisation of this COP 31. I also augur every success to Australia's role in leading the negotiations in the coming days.

Amid grave and complex geopolitical and planetary challenges that confront us all, science, green technology and artificial intelligence can strengthen decision-making.

Drawing on previous COPs, we must translate existing commitments and the first Global Stocktake outcomes into practical, measurable implementation. Our experience provides insight into what makes multilateral negotiations work, and how they can yield tangible results.

As an EU Member State, Malta is committed to the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C goal, and we also contribute to the European Union's ambitious collective climate mitigation efforts. Successive national incentives support businesses and households in this transition. Shore to ship electrification is a key national investment towards a sustainable maritime economy. Climate action underpins national and collective security, economic stability and resilience. The latest UNEP report on temperature overshoot risks -- reinforces the urgency of accelerating global action to mitigate harm.

As climate change and extreme weather accelerate, Malta is strengthening energy security through interconnections and grid improvements. Renewable energy investment, including offshore floating technology and potentially floating solar PVs, will strengthen resilience and access to cleaner energy.

Climate resilience must be central to our response. Alongside implementing its National Adaptation Strategy, Malta will continue developing its National Climate Resilience Plan in 2027, with actions for

the ten most vulnerable economic sectors. This includes critical infrastructure: energy, water, health, transport and food security. We must prepare effectively for this new reality, with targeted sectoral action to strengthen preparedness across our small island's economy.

At the global level, Malta has been a leading voice in advocating the continuity of Statehood and the preservation of maritime zones of States affected by sea level rise, as we recognise the importance of stronger global and regional cooperation on climate resilience, energy security and seeking solutions together for shared challenges.

Malta calls for climate finance architecture that is fit for purpose, and accessible to the States most vulnerable to climate change.

Malta will continue to contribute to the Green Climate Fund. Additionally, we prioritise our Overseas Development Assistance towards small island developing states with which Malta shares similar climate problems and common geophysical circumstances.

Sharing experiences and transferring knowledge are key components of climate action, and Malta commits itself to continue supporting SIDS especially in sustainable freshwater conservation and demand management.

A Malta-led initiative adopted unanimously by States in 1988 defined climate change as a common concern of humankind. Three decades later, the ICJ and ITLOS advisory opinions on climate change affirmed the same.

Let us continue to steer the course at COP 31 proving that multilateralism is the best tool we have to defeat this unprecedented threat. Let's give our people what they deserve. Let us safeguard their present and future well-being.

Thank you.