



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER**

### *The Deputy Head of Mission of the United States of America calls on the Speaker*

The Deputy Head of Mission of the United States of America, Mr Ken Toko, paid a courtesy visit on the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dr Anglu Farrugia.

During their frank exchange of views, Dr Farrugia and Mr Toko addressed aspects of local politics, global issues; in particular the Middle East and Ukraine, Malta's role as chair of the United Security Council, Malta's chair-in-office of the OSCE and modes how to strengthen the bilateral relations between Malta and the United States.

On regional challenges, particularly the Middle East and Ukraine, the Speaker stressed that Malta has been and will always be on the side of dialogue and peace. It will always continue to encourage constructive dialogue aimed at resolving the pressing political and military questions surrounding both conflicts. Dr Farrugia also stated that it is imperative that the international community stands together with regional actors and global partners to create the right conditions to procure peace and stability in both regions.

The Speaker and the Deputy Head of Mission recognised the importance of self-restraint and understanding to avoid further escalation of tensions in the Middle East and to heed the advice of world leaders to calm the situation.