



Security Council Open Debate: Maintenance of international peace and security: Effective multilateralism through the defense of the principles of the UN Charter, 24 April 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt,
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, Excellency, and I also thank the Secretary-General for sharing his thoughts and insights with us today.

Over the years, multilateral institutions with the United Nations at their heart, have promoted cooperation and brought prosperity and stability.

To make sure that our institutions continue to serve us well, we must recommit to a revitalised multilateral system and uphold the fundamental principles underpinning them especially at a time when they are being undermined. This is needed to help us address the unprecedented global challenges we are facing.

Enhanced cooperation between multilateral organisations at international and regional level, with the UN at the core of this work, is especially important in the areas of peace and security and sustainable development. Malta is a strong advocate for the integrity, independence and functionality of the UN human rights mechanisms. Human rights are universal and indivisible.

A transformational shift in global governance to respond to growing inequalities is also needed. Building equality through multilateralism



requires the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women, to promote gender transformative actions and agreements.

Allow me to make some observations on the concept note circulated ahead of this meeting.

First, it is important to highlight that since the creation of the United Nations, the world has been widely guided by the UN Charter and its fundamental principles, among which the principle of sovereign equality of states. It is also worth highlighting that according to the 1970 UN Declaration, there is no conflict between the principles of international law as they are interrelated, and each principle should be constructed in the context of the other principles.

In this context, we can never accept the results of last year's illegal referendums engineered by Russia as a pretext for further violation of Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We can neither recognise the so-called republics emerging from Russia's illegitimate acts towards Ukraine and their strive for interdependence or 'strategic autonomy', as indicated in the concept note. On the contrary, such actions contribute to the unravelling of the rules-based order.

Second, it is deeply worrying that the Russian Federation, a Permanent Member of the Security Council, blatantly disregarded the primary function of the Security Council, to maintain international peace and security, when it launched its aggression against Ukraine.



Neither can we forget that this illegal, unprovoked, and unjustified war generated one of the worst refugee crises since the Second World War, a global grain shortage, hundreds of thousands killed or injured, forced deportations of children, worldwide anxiety for a nuclear disaster, and negatively impacted the credibility of this Council.

On this occasion, we once again urge the Russian Federation to stop this war, withdraw its military forces from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders, and turn to dialogue and diplomacy as the tools which can bring stability to the region.

As an elected member of the Security Council, Malta firmly believes in applying in good faith the toolbox for the peaceful settlement of disputes contained in Article 33 of the Charter. In the same vein, there is space for the Security Council to strengthen its cooperation with the ICJ and ICC.

On Security Council reform, Malta is firm in its conviction that the Council needs to reflect today's realities and challenges. To respond to true multilateralism, we underline the need for the Council to also be more inclusive.

Malta is a strong supporter of the standing mandate for a General Assembly debate when a veto is cast in the Council. In the same vein, we also fully



support the Political Declaration on Suspension of Veto Powers launched by France and Mexico, as well as the ACT Code of Conduct.

Finally, Malta unequivocally supports the UN Secretary-General's key proposals traversing Our Common Agenda Report, all the current OCA-related negotiations on progressing the work of the organisation and enhancing the constructive power of multilateralism, as well as the work of the High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism established by the UN Secretary General in March 2022.

In preparation for the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, we underscore the need for the international community to take stock of the progress we have achieved so far and the gaps that remain, while engaging in intensive multilateral efforts to bring the implementation of the SDGs back on track. We also look forward to the September 2024 Summit of the Future and to advancing ideas for governance arrangements in areas of global commons.

I thank you.