



# GA Debate on Agenda Item 60: 'Standing mandate for a General Assembly debate when a veto is cast in the Security Council'

## 26 April 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Vanessa Frazier  
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

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President

A year ago, Malta proudly co-sponsored the resolution entitled "Standing mandate for a General Assembly debate when a veto is cast in the Security Council".

As a member of the core-group on this initiative, led by Liechtenstein, Malta fully subscribes to the Security Council's continued primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The use of the veto has left us with a Security Council that is unable to act in the face of some of the most pressing challenges of our times. It has also undermined the spirit of multilateralism, which is the backbone of the Charter of the United Nations. It is, thus, in the true spirit of effective multilateralism that the Resolution strengthens the principles of the UN Charter, providing a voice for all UN Member States, and requiring an explanation by those Council Members that hold the right of the veto on their actions.



The immediate application of the resolution's purpose showcases the importance of this matter, in addition to the significant cross-regional group of co-sponsors ahead of its adoption. As the General Assembly was called to debate the outcomes of veto use on two occasions last year, the resolution fulfilled its objective by granting the opportunity for the General Assembly to share its point of view on issues pertaining to international peace and security.

This resolution ties into the complementary approach that both bodies should have, namely in ensuring more transparency and accountability on the use of the veto. It also reminds us that with the veto, comes a responsibility.

The Security Council is accountable to the UN Membership in, at least, two ways. For the elected members, accountability is reflected through their election by the General Assembly. For the permanent members, accountability is introduced through this standing mandate – reminding them that their use of the veto does not equate to full autonomy and disregard to the primary purpose of the Council in fulfilling its collective mandate of maintaining international peace and security.

Let us be clear. Calling a debate of and by the General Assembly to discuss veto use is not calling for a change in the use of the veto. That discussion remains in the hands of the IGN on the reform of the Security Council, which



remains fundamentally crucial to our overall pleas for reform and revitalization of the United Nations as a whole.

Additionally, we reiterate our call for respect of the UN Charter's Article 27, paragraph 3 which provides that a party to a dispute should abstain from voting in decisions on the pacific settlement of disputes.

Let me also reiterate Malta's support to two other relevant initiatives: the French-Mexican initiative on veto restraint in the case of mass atrocities, as well as the Code of Conduct of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group not to vote against any resolution intended to end mass atrocities. The Uniting for Peace Resolution is also relevant to our discussions.

President

To conclude: the UN Charter is clear – the Security Council is there to work on behalf of the membership. The UN cannot remain inactive when the Security Council does not fulfil its primary task of upholding international peace and security and it is for this reason that we will ensure that Resolution 76/262 continues to be given its full effect.

I thank you.