



General Assembly Debate on the 'Use of the Veto' Mali Sanctions, 11 September 2023

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

President

Malta aligns herself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to make some additional remarks in our national capacity.

We would also like to join other members in expressing our sincere condolences with both Morocco and Libya for the devastating loss of lives experienced following earthquakes and flooding in these countries.

Malta deeply regrets that the veto was used by the Russian Federation to end the Mali sanctions regime. The carefully crafted draft resolution was a result of extensive efforts by France and the United Arab Emirates to reconcile all positions among Council Members. It also enjoyed wide and cross-regional support within the Council.

The pivotal role of the Mali sanctions regime and the Panel of Experts in supporting the implementation of the Peace Agreement cannot be understated. It was lauded by Council Members as a 'historic opportunity to achieve lasting peace in Mali.' The accompanying establishment of the sanctions regime and the Panel of Experts was fully aligned with this commitment.



The failure to renew this regime poses additional challenges to the peace process. The sudden withdrawal of MINUSMA should have served as a strong signal for the Security Council to unite in support of the implementation of the Peace Agreement. Regrettably, this opportunity was rejected.

With no mechanisms for peacekeeping and monitoring in place, we must now redouble efforts to make sure that the situation in Mali does not become more dire, unpredictable, and volatile.

Our key objective with this renewal was to produce an outcome that holds Mali's security and stability at its core. It should be noted that the sanctions regime and the Panel of Experts had, until then, been the only source of monitoring the implementation of the Peace Agreement following the withdrawal of MINUSMA. This is why, as Council Members, we have voted in favour of this text.

The presentation of an alternative last-minute draft by the Russian Federation was equally unhelpful. The fact that all Council Member rejected this proposal speaks for itself.

On this occasion, we also reiterate our appreciation to the Panel of Experts' commendable work over the years, especially in presenting high detail and quality reporting of the realities on the ground, often at great risk.



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As Security Council members, we stand ready to remain engaged in discussions aimed at improving the situation in Mali. We strongly urge all Council Members to engage in good faith for the benefit of the people of Mali.

I thank you.