



Draft resolution on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, 16 October 2023

Explanation of Vote (after the vote) delivered by HE Ambassador Vanessa Frazier, Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Draft Resolution on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

President

Malta abstained on this draft resolution.

The text proposed by the Russian Federation left out important elements that also need to be recognised and addressed by this Council.

While fully cognizant of the need for dire humanitarian relief to reach the people of Gaza without further delay, Malta notes that the text excludes crucial elements that are currently impacting the situation on the ground. We believe that these also need to be addressed.

We reiterate our condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of the terrorist acts perpetrated by Hamas on Israel.

We emphasise that Israel has the right to live in peace and security. It has the right to self-defence, in line with humanitarian and international law, and in accordance with the principles of distinction and proportionality.

With complete understanding of the urgency of the issue, Malta remains determined to engaging in a constructive manner on the way forward. We



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stress the need for the Council to take action on the situation, which is of grave concern.

I thank you.