



EOV (ADOPTED): Security Council vote on Maritime Security in the Red Sea, 10 January 2024

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

Thank you, President,

The Security Council has a responsibility to respond with urgency to threats to international peace and security.

Malta voted in favour of this resolution, and thanks the US and Japan for tabling it. Malta remains gravely concerned with the deteriorating maritime security situation in the Red Sea.

The worrying escalation in attacks against commercial shipping in the Red Sea are in violation of international law. Such attacks, including yesterday's deeply concerning intensification of attacks by the Houthis, are unacceptable and must be strongly condemned.

We call on the Houthis to immediately cease any attacks and actions against commercial shipping, and immediately release the 'Galaxy Leader' vessel and its crew.



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Maritime security is of critical importance for the wellbeing of Yemen's civilian population who heavily rely on humanitarian aid. Further escalations may disrupt the flow of aid into Yemen and have devastating consequences for its population. The Houthis must act in the best interests of the Yemeni people.

We believe this resolution as drafted lives up to the Council's responsibilities, and we should make no allowance or excuse for egregious violations of international law.

We call on all concerned parties to exercise maximum restraint. They must refrain from taking any additional escalatory actions that could have a destabilising effect on the region.

Let me emphasise the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as the fundamental pillar for ocean governance which sets out the legal framework within which *ALL* activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out. Ensuring full respect for UNCLOS is critical, as it lays down rules for the mutual benefit of all states. The free and peaceful use of the seas and oceans is vital for us all.



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Thank you.