



Security Council adoption - resolution on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, 20 February 2024

Explanation of Vote [After the Vote]: **VETOED - NOT ADOPTED**

Thank you, President.

Malta also thanks Algeria for their measured and constructive approach as penholders throughout negotiations.

Malta voted in favour of this draft, and we unequivocally reiterate our call for a permanent ceasefire. It is therefore regrettable that the use of the veto prevents this Council from calling for an end to this conflict.

We also believe the Council has provided ongoing negotiations taking place on the ground the necessary space and time. Regrettably, we still find ourselves on the precipice of another wave of hostilities. This will undoubtedly have catastrophic consequences on the civilian population in Rafah, an area already designated as a safe zone.



We also reject and denounce any forced displacement of the Palestinian civilian population from and within Gaza. Such actions amount to grave breaches of international law.

The severely deteriorating humanitarian conditions and the threat of famine within Gaza are extremely troubling, and need to be urgently addressed. Israel is required to facilitate the full, rapid, safe, and unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid into Gaza. At the same time, UNRWA remains essential to ensure an effective humanitarian response.

The broader regional situation also continues to be deeply worrying.

Under these circumstances, the full and immediate implementation of Security Council resolutions 2712 and 2720 is now more pressing than ever. Let us be clear. This Council has the duty and responsibility to make sure that its decisions are respected.

We also echo the call for all remaining hostages to be immediately, safely, and unconditionally released. And we call on this Council to denounce the terrorist attacks of October 7.



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In closing, President, Malta underlines its unwavering commitment to comprehensive peace based on the two-State solution.

I thank you.