



Security Council adoption of the mandate renewal of the 1718 Committee Panel of Experts, 28 March 2024

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

Thank you, President.

We thank the United States, as penholder, for their tireless efforts to achieve consensus on this draft.

We deeply regret the use of the veto to block the renewal of the mandate of the 1718 Committee Panel of Experts. The current text represented a set of significant compromises on the Panel's mandate.

First, it accommodated requests to link the renewal of the mandate of the Panel to broader discussions on sanctions as well as dialogue on the file.

Second, it established the confidential nature of the midterm report, greatly affecting the ability of the wider UN membership to remain informed and engaged on the file.



Despite these significant changes, and even though most Council members supported a technical rollover, this text was accepted in the spirit of compromise. Regrettably, this compromise was vetoed by the Russian Federation.

We also highlight that a significant, cross-regional group of delegations expressed their support for the 1718 Panel during the open briefing on Wednesday, and called for the renewal of its mandate. It is deeply regrettable that these calls have gone unanswered.

President

We strongly agree that dialogue is crucial to achieve progress on the overall file. However, we stress that this resolution was meant to meaningfully renew the Panel's mandate. Any discussion on the sanctions architecture, as well as an overarching dialogue on the file, should be kept separate from the Panel's mandate renewal. Panels of Experts are independent and impartial, and their mandates ought to be treated this way.



We reiterate our full support for the work of the Panel of Experts, including its reporting. It has been a crucial instrument to display the DPRK's sophisticated architecture of sanctions evasion, and a crucial source of information for the wider UN membership.

National competent authorities who read these reports have been able to use them to keep pace with the ever-evolving means of sanctions evasion investigated by the Panel.

In the absence of such reports, the DPRK's relentless evasion of sanctions will continue to grow unchecked. This is a sad disservice to regional and international peace and security.

I thank you.