



General Assembly Debate on the use of the veto on 22 March 2024 under agenda item 'The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question', 8 April 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Mr Adam Kuymizakis

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President, Excellencies

Malta regrets that we are convening in light of the vetoes cast at the Security Council on 22 March. We emphasise that every use of the veto undermines the ability of the Security Council to uphold and safeguard the principles of the UN Charter.

Malta voted in favour of the draft Security Council resolution presented by the United States of America. Its adoption on the 22 March would have been a step in the right direction, building upon Security Council Resolutions 2712 and 2720. It contained strong language regarding the scaling-up of humanitarian aid, effective deconfliction in the Gaza Strip, and the protection and respect of humanitarian assets and medical facilities.



THE PERMANENT MISSION
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We regret the veto prevented the Security Council from clearly condemning the Hamas terror attacks of 7 October through this draft Resolution. Malta reiterates its strong condemnation of this heinous attack and calls on Hamas to immediately and unconditionally release all hostages.

Malta remains firm in its position that an immediate and permanent ceasefire is the only avenue through which we can prevent further deterioration and begin addressing the catastrophic impact of this war, which has led to the deaths of over 32,000 Palestinians and over 1,200 Israelis.

That is why Malta, together with the ten elected members of the Security Council, collectively drafted Resolution 2728, which was adopted on 25 March. The resolution clearly demands an immediate ceasefire for the month of Ramadan leading to a lasting, sustainable ceasefire. As we reach the end of Ramadan, Malta regrets that this resolution was not implemented by all sides and the desperate ceasefire did not materialise.



President

Malta continues to be alarmed with the scale of human suffering that continues to unfold in Gaza, despite the adoption of resolution 2728.

Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 2728, 2720 and 2712, must be respected and implemented by all parties.

We also call for the immediate and full implementation of the Order on provisional measures issued by the ICJ on 26 January.

Furthermore, international humanitarian law must be respected by all parties. Military actions during hostilities must always be carried out in line with the principles of distinction, proportionality, and necessity. Parties are also obliged to ensure that civilians and civilian infrastructure are protected. Unhindered humanitarian aid and the safety of UN and humanitarian workers must be guaranteed.



In this regard, Malta reiterates its deep shock at the recent killing by the IDF of seven World Central Kitchen humanitarian personnel operating in Gaza. This completely unacceptable event brings the total number of humanitarians killed since the beginning of this conflict to over 220. This is appalling, and we express our deepest condolences to the loved ones of all those lost.

In conclusion, President, Malta underlines its steadfast commitment to the realization of a two-State solution along the pre-1967 borders, addressing the legitimate aspirations of both sides, with Jerusalem as the future Capital of two States, living side-by-side in peace and security, in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions and internationally agreed parameters.

I thank you.