



## General Assembly Debate on the use of the veto on 18 April 2024 under agenda item 'Admission of new members', 1 May 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Adam Kuymizakis

Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

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President, Excellencies

Malta expresses its disappointment in the necessity to convene following the veto cast at the Security Council on 18 April. Malta voted in favour of the draft Security Council resolution presented by Algeria, recommending full membership of Palestine in the United Nations. We express our regret that the veto hindered the Security Council from reaching a recommendation.

Malta's vote was one aimed at seeking to advance peace through the two-State solution. This remains the only realistic foundation for sustainable peace and stability in the Middle East. We voted in favour of a solution that has garnered the longstanding support of the majority of the international community for decades.

Malta supports Palestine's full membership in the United Nations and believes that it meets all the requirements set out in Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations.



Moreover, it is crucial to emphasize that only through the realization of a two-state solution, with Israel and Palestine coexisting peacefully and securely, can we envision a genuine prospect for peace not only in the region but also throughout the broader Middle East.

Full membership within the UN would have offered a beacon of hope during a period fraught with considerable turmoil and uncertainty.

President

Malta reaffirms 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 35,000 people, the majority of whom are women and children.

We underline that a ceasefire would also be conducive to the immediate and urgent release of all hostages, who have now been held by Hamas and other groups for over 200 days. We strongly reiterate our full condemnation of the 7 October terror attacks by Hamas and other armed groups, including the taking of hostages and the continued rocket fire at Israeli population centres.



We are deeply concerned and alarmed at the prospect of an Israeli ground invasion in Rafah. Such a military action in Rafah where over one million internally displaced civilians are currently residing and facing the threat of famine, would be utterly unjustifiable.

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

The Provisional Orders of the International Court of Justice on 26 January and 28 March must be complied with.

Furthermore, international humanitarian law must be respected by all parties. We especially recall the international humanitarian law obligations of all parties to protect civilians and humanitarian workers.



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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.