



## Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly, 13 May 2024

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

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President, Excellencies

Malta voted in favour and welcomes the adoption of the Resolution adopted last Friday. This is a positive and hopeful development that enhances the status, and provides additional rights and privileges as outlined in the Resolution, for the Observer State of Palestine.

The General Assembly has spoken loudly and clearly.

It has determined that Palestine qualifies for membership in the United Nations. It has similarly recommended that the Security Council reconsider this matter favourably. As an elected member of the Security Council, we will heed this message.



Malta underscores that the two-state solution remains the only realistic foundation for sustainable peace and stability in the Middle East. Membership in the United Nations, together with discussions between the parties, is an important step in that regard.

A vote in favour of this Resolution is consistent with this political horizon that enjoys the support of the international community.

President

The war in Gaza has raged on for over seven months. The atrocious terror attacks of 7 October must not be forgotten and those responsible must be held accountable. We reiterate our call for the immediate and unconditional release of the hostages. We also unequivocally condemn Hamas' rocket attacks at civilian population centres.



However, the subsequent Israeli-Hamas war in Gaza has decimated entire families and communities, killing over thirty-four thousand people, the majority of whom are women and children, with thousands more wounded or missing. Equally concerning are the renewed fighting in the north of Gaza, the effective dismantling of the healthcare system, and the ever looming threat of famine.

Regretfully, the conflict is now expanding into Rafah and this will have unimaginable and unbearable humanitarian consequences. Malta firmly rejects any such offensive.

To address this continuously deteriorating situation, and to provide the space for the necessary scale-up in the delivery of humanitarian aid, Malta reiterates its call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire.



We call for the immediate implementation of Security Council resolutions 2712, 2720 and 2728, and we reiterate that the Provisional Orders of the International Court of Justice on 26 January and 28 March must be complied with. Moreover, the calls for respect of international law, including international humanitarian law, by this Assembly cannot continue falling on deaf ears.

On the humanitarian front, Israel must take all the necessary and effective measures to ensure, without delay, the unhindered provision at scale of basic services and humanitarian aid. We also stress the need for Rafah and Kerem Shalom crossings to remain open and for their functionality to be expanded. All crossing points which can be used to deliver aid must be opened immediately.

President

Both parties must take the deal which is on the table. This will lead to the safe release of the hostages and an end to the carnage in Gaza.



For the sake of Israelis and Palestinians alike, parties to the conflict must muster the political will to accept the ceasefire agreement.

Only this will permit the necessary space for the advancement of a political horizon and the realisation 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.