



## Security Council adoption resolution on Outer Space, 20 May 2024

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

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Thank you, President.

Malta voted against this resolution, which failed to include the views of many Council members. We have done so on substance, and, even more so, on procedural grounds.

With regards to the text, while largely based on the resolution presented by Japan and the US, this draft removed key elements, including the reference to the applicability of international law in outer space. Such reference was supported by many Council members, and we regret its deletion.

Furthermore, this draft contained two additional non-consensual OPs, which sought to divide the Council rather than achieving consensus. In fact, the same language contained in one of the two OPs was recently voted down in this very room when it was presented as an amendment to the resolution by Japan and the United States.



On the other hand, we are disappointed by the approach adopted by the penholder. It is regrettable to see that a permanent member first vetoed a resolution on this topic, stressing that the Council should not discuss outer space and should not reaffirm existing obligations. Only to then present its own Security Council resolution on the same topic.

Moreover, after only one round of consultations, it placed under silence a text that failed to address almost all of the concerns expressed by other members.

This is not striving for consensus. This is not how we advance the interests of the wider UN membership. Initiatives like this only contribute to discrediting this body.

As we have said before, we had a timely opportunity to adopt the first Security Council resolution on outer space and reaffirm the principles of the Outer Space Treaty. We missed it when the resolution was vetoed last month.



Our collective goal is to ensure that outer space remains a peaceful domain, for the benefit of all humankind. As space capabilities continue to increase, we believe that this Council should play a role in addressing these threats to international peace and security.

To conclude, we once again reaffirm our principled position against all nuclear weapons and WMDS, in outer space, on earth, and anywhere.

We stand ready to engage constructively on outer space discussions in all relevant fora, including the Security Council.

I thank you.