



Security Council briefing on Threats to International Peace and Security (Middle East), 22 July 2024

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

Thank you, President, and I also thank Under-Secretary-General DiCarlo and Major General Beary for their briefings.

The war in Gaza is having a devastating impact in the Middle East, and the risk of it turning into a wider conflict is greater than ever before.

This Council must focus on prioritising de-escalation and restraint as a pathway out of this bleak and extremely volatile period. There is no more time to lose.

We must act in a decisive manner to ensure the full implementation of Security Council Resolutions 2712, 2720, and 2735. Most importantly, Hamas and Israel must accept and implement the ceasefire proposal outlined in 2735.

Recent developments illustrate this in the clearest way possible.



We condemn the Houthi-claimed drone attack on Tel Aviv on 19 July. We call on the Houthis to immediately cease all attacks in the region.

The indiscriminate shelling of civilian population centres is prohibited under international law, and this is binding on all actors.

Furthermore, we call on the Houthis to cease their actions against commercial shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. These attacks disrupt mediation efforts and hamper progress towards a political solution to the conflict in Yemen.

The retaliatory airstrikes by Israel in and around the port of Hudaydah left many victims and casualties while causing considerable damage to civilian infrastructure. This is concerning. We once again underscore that all parties are obliged to protect civilians under international law.

President



We call on all Member States in the region, and those with influence over the parties, to facilitate and encourage de-escalation towards a peaceful solution. We emphasise that all Member States must strictly abide by Security Council resolutions, including full compliance with the UN arms embargo.

In conclusion, President, we reiterate our call on all parties to exercise restraint, to de-escalate and pursue peaceful solutions to all disputes. This is the only way forward. There is no alternative route if we are to prevent the flames of war from engulfing the entire region.

I thank you.