



10th Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly, 17 September 2024

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

President, Excellencies

On 19 July, the International Court of Justice, upon the request of this General Assembly, delivered its Advisory Opinion regarding the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem.

The Court found that Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is unlawful, and that it is under an obligation to end it as soon as possible.

Among the legal consequences emanating from this Advisory Opinion is a responsibility on the part of the General Assembly, as well as the Security Council, to consider the precise modalities and further action required to end Israel's unlawful presence.



In this context, Malta reaffirms its unwavering commitment to international law. Adherence to it is essential to advancing peace, security, and justice. Respecting and implementing the findings of international judicial institutions, including the ICJ, is fundamental. All states must respect the decisions of our institutions and cooperate fully in their implementation. Our multilateral system depends on it.

President

Across the occupied Palestinian territory, Palestinians have been facing a desperate reality for fifty-seven years. They are forced to contend with discriminatory legislation and frequent human rights-violations.

A continued occupation will only serve to make the two-State Solution and the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination seem like a distant and unattainable abstraction.



As Member States, we have a responsibility to move this forward, a duty outlined by the ICJ. This includes not recognising as legal Israel's unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territory, and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the occupation.

All settlement activities must cease immediately. They are illegal under international law, undermine the contiguity of a future Palestinian state, and are a breach of the Palestinian people's fundamental right to self-determination.

President

Tens of thousands of civilians have been killed in the Gaza war, and many more have had their lives destroyed. Hostages abducted by Hamas, and their families, continue to live through a perpetual nightmare.

An immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza needs to be realised urgently. The hostages must be immediately and unconditionally released. We have echoed this message consistently since 7 October.



This catastrophic war has only illustrated the need to address the root causes of this conflict and take tangible steps towards the realisation of the two-State Solution in line with Security Council resolutions and internationally agreed parameters.

This path requires courage, principled decisions, and full respect of international law.

This is why Malta will be supporting the resolution before us today.

I thank you.