



## Security Council briefing on the Protection of Civilians, 12 November 2024

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

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Thank you, President, and thanks to Algeria, Guyana, Slovenia, and Switzerland for requesting this meeting. I also thank Assistant Secretary-General Brands Kehris, Acting Under Secretary General Msuya, and Director Paulsen for their briefings on the harrowing situation in the Gaza Strip.

Malta is extremely concerned about the IPC's declaration of the strong likelihood of famine in the besieged northern areas of Gaza. Food systems have collapsed, and aid deliveries are being withheld.

This man-made famine is the result of direct actions by the Israeli Government, and it is leading to the suffering of millions in Gaza. All told, we are facing a human rights crisis all throughout Gaza and the Occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Today, the entirety of Gaza's population is facing emergency levels of food insecurity.



Tens of thousands of people are being forcibly displaced from North Gaza, in violation of international law. As recalled by the heads of UN agencies last week, the situation we are facing in the North is ‘apocalyptic’.

The persistent actions undertaken by Israel to dismantle UNRWA’s vital operations in the entire oPt will collapse the humanitarian response in Gaza, and gravely exacerbate this catastrophe.

We reiterate our longstanding and unwavering position. The Agency is irreplaceable. It serves as a stabilising force in the region, and a vital source of support for Palestinians. It is the backbone of humanitarian assistance to generations of Palestine refugees, and its work remains essential.

President

The recommendations for immediate action made by the IPC must be heeded. Israel must allow immediate, unimpeded access for the delivery of adequate food, water, medical and nutritional supplies into and throughout Gaza. The siege of northern Gaza must end.



It must facilitate repairs to health facilities, water and sanitation infrastructure, and the passage of vital materials required to meet the basic needs of the population.

These requirements are binding legal obligations and are neither arbitrary nor negotiable. They are in accordance with Israel's responsibilities under the Fourth Geneva Convention, and International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law.

President

This Council has a responsibility to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security. Inaction and political paralysis are not an option. The world, especially the people of Gaza, are expecting us to rise to the obligations and responsibility entrusted to us.

The E10-led draft resolution would finally address the desperate humanitarian situation in Gaza and the immense suffering of the Gazan population, by demanding an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and the release of hostages.



It would also demand the Israeli's unhindered facilitation of humanitarian assistance at scale to the people of Gaza. This is the only pathway to averting this famine. There is no alternative.

President

For more than a year, we have heard the UN, every humanitarian agency, and every human rights group sound the alarm. What we are witnessing in Gaza is a defenceless civilian population sheltering in and around schools, hospitals, and aid distribution sites.

They must be protected, and Israel's attacks against them should cease immediately. The situation is completely untenable, and there is no more time to waste.

I thank you.