



Security Council Open Debate - Implementation of Note S/2024/507

19 August

Statement delivered by Ms Deborah M. Borg, Deputy Permanent Representative

Thank you, Madam President, and thank you also to the briefer for her insightful remarks.

Entrusted with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Security Council acts on behalf of the wider membership and in the collective interest of the international community. Its working methods are therefore central to its legitimacy and credibility.

Today more than ever, ensuring that the Council works collectively, efficiently and transparently, while maintaining the confidence of the membership it serves, is imperative.

In this regard, allow me to make four points.

First, we must address the use of the veto and the risk of Council paralysis.

While the Charter provides permanent members with a distinct voting prerogative, the exercise of the veto should not come at the expense of the Council's ability to discharge its responsibilities.

Malta, apart from being a member of the Uniting for Consensus Group, continues to support initiatives aimed at promoting the responsible use of the veto, including the ACT Code of Conduct, the Franco-Mexican Initiative and the General Assembly Veto Initiative.

Malta also reaffirms its support for efforts to ensure the full implementation of Article 27(3) of the Charter, supporting a dedicated chapter in the Council's Annual Report on its application.

Second, inclusivity must remain at the heart of the Council's working methods.

For the Council to act on behalf of the wider membership, its working methods must ensure meaningful opportunities for engagement beyond the Council itself, including with the General Assembly and with regional organisations to strengthen its ability to respond to situations on its agenda.

Inclusivity should also extend beyond the intergovernmental system. Civil society, affected communities, women and youth offer vital perspectives and lived experiences. Malta encourages the Council to make full use of interactive formats to ensure the meaningful and safe participation of briefers and other voices.

Third, the Council must ensure the effective functioning of its subsidiary bodies.

Malta remains concerned that Chairs and Vice-Chairs have yet to be appointed for the Council's subsidiary bodies. These bodies perform an important role in supporting the Council's work, and the absence of agreed leadership impedes their ability to discharge their mandates effectively. We urge Council members to engage constructively and make every effort to reach agreement on these appointments without delay.

Fourth, transparency and accountability must remain at the centre of the Council's working methods.

Transparency remains essential to building confidence in the Council and in the wider multilateral system. Of particular significance is the ongoing process for the selection and appointment of the next Secretary-General. The manner in which this process is conducted, and the confidence it inspires among the wider membership, will have implications well beyond the Council and for trust in the Organisation as a whole.

Malta calls for increased openness in the selection process and supports efforts aimed at providing the General Assembly with a meaningful choice in the appointment of the next Secretary-General.



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Madam President,

Note 507 provides an important framework for improving the Council's working methods, but its value ultimately depends on its faithful and meaningful implementation. Malta stands ready to work constructively with all members in advancing these efforts and ensuring that the Council is equipped to respond effectively to the challenges before it.

I thank you.