

The 66th and 67th plenary meetings of the General Assembly during its 78th session under agenda item 63 entitled “use of the veto”

Monday, 8 April 2024

Summary by the Office of the President of the General Assembly

On 26 March 2024, the President of the Security Council submitted a Special Report of the Security Council to the President of the General Assembly, in accordance with resolution A/RES/76/262 of 26 April 2022. According to the Special Report, on 22 March 2024, the Security Council held its 9584th meeting to take action on a draft resolution contained in document S/2024/239, proposed by the United States. The meeting was held under the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”. The draft resolution received eleven votes in favour, three votes against and one abstention. The draft resolution was not adopted due to the negative votes cast by the People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation, two permanent members of the Security Council.

On 8 April 2024, following the use of the veto during the 9584th meeting of the Security Council, and in accordance with its resolution A/RES/76/262, the General Assembly held a plenary debate under agenda item 63 entitled “use of the veto”. A statement was delivered by the President of the General Assembly, available [here](#). Representatives of 60 delegations took the floor, including four speaking on behalf of groups of States. The veto casting States also participated in the debate.

The following is a brief summary of statements delivered during the debate.

- Multiple delegations highlighted grave concerns about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. Specific issues raised included a looming famine, a collapsing healthcare system, and incidents that hindered humanitarian operations, such as attacks on humanitarian convoys and workers.
- Several delegations criticised the frequent use of the veto by Security Council members. This practice was described as a significant obstacle to passing resolutions, leading to paralysis of the Council, and undermining its ability to fulfil mandate to maintain international peace and security.
- While many speakers welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 2728 (2024), dissatisfaction was expressed regarding the long delay it took to be adopted. It was further noted that as the month of Ramadan came to an end, Security Council members should redouble their efforts in support of a lasting and sustainable ceasefire.
- Israel's military actions in the Gaza Strip were criticised by several speakers, who called for accountability, and emphasised the urgency of humanitarian assistance.
- Delegations condemned violent actions carried out by both sides of the conflict. Specific incidents, such as the 7 October attack by Hamas and the recent killing of humanitarian workers, were cited as examples of the urgent need to address violence and ensure the protection of civilians.
- Concerns were raised about the continued expansion of illegal Israeli settlements. Such expansion was viewed as detrimental to the prospects of a two-State solution and was emphasised as a significant barrier to peace.

- There were calls for accountability for crimes committed during the conflict. These calls included demands for comprehensive, independent investigations into alleged atrocities and the provision of compensation to victims and their families.
- Multiple speakers emphasised the urgent need for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza. This ceasefire was seen as crucial to addressing the humanitarian crisis and ensuring the safety and well-being of civilians caught in the conflict.
- Delegations stressed the importance of implementing existing Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. The provisions of the resolutions adopted in the context of the General Assembly's emergency special session resolution were underscored as requiring immediate implementation.
- Several speakers referred to ongoing diplomatic efforts led by the Arab Republic of Egypt, the State of Qatar, and the United States, to achieve a lasting ceasefire and ultimately a peace agreement.
- Continuous support was expressed for the two-State solution as the only viable pathway to achieve lasting peace and security for both Israelis and Palestinians.
- While the majority of speakers focused on the situation in the Middle East, suggestions were offered to regulate the use of the veto within the Security Council. These included the France/Mexico Initiative on the suspension of the veto in cases of mass atrocities, as well as the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes. Several Member States also reiterated their positions on Security Council reform.
- Support was expressed by many Member States for the admission of the State of Palestine as a Member State of the UN, with many speakers emphasising the right to self-determination.

In addition to the present summary, and when available, a verbatim record of the debate will be transmitted to the Security Council.
