

STATEMENT

BY THE HONORABLE MANEESH GOBIN

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2023

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

1. Further to my Statement to the House of 24 October 2023, I would like to provide an update on latest developments regarding the deteriorating humanitarian crisis in Gaza.
2. After an unsuccessful attempt of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to release a Statement on 8 October 2023, the Security Council met on several instances to consider draft resolutions introduced respectively by: Russia on 16 October 2023; Brazil on 18 October 2023; the United States on 25 October 2023 and a counter-resolution by Russia on 25 October 2023, without any breakthrough.
3. Following the deadlock at the UN Security Council, Jordan and Mauritania requested jointly for the resumption of the 10th emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly to address the crisis in Palestine.
4. The 10th Emergency Special Session resumed its sitting on 26 October 2023 in New York. Debates were suspended on 27 October to allow the UN General Assembly to take action on a draft resolution proposed by Jordan and 40 other countries entitled “Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations.”

5. The resolution condemns all acts of violence against Palestinian and Israeli civilians and recalls “the need to uphold the principles of distinction, necessity, proportionality and precaution in the conduct of hostilities.”
6. Thereafter, the Jordanian resolution was put to vote on Friday 27 October 2023 and was adopted by 120 votes in favour, 14 against and 45 abstentions. **Mauritius voted in favour of the Jordanian resolution.**
7. Debates in 10th Emergency Special Session resumed on 30 October 2023 and are ongoing. Mauritius will make a statement:
 - (a) calling for a humanitarian ceasefire and to stop the human catastrophe unfolding in Palestine and;
 - (b) reiterate all initiatives to be undertaken in accordance with international law and the UN Charter to find immediate solutions to release all innocent civilians being held captive without condition.
 - (c) only a Two-State Solution to the conflict in Palestine based on relevant UN resolutions and international law, which envisages the establishment of an independent, viable and prosperous State of Palestine within secure and recognised borders living in peace alongside the State of Israel, will ensure long lasting peace and stability in the region.

Thank you.