

Explanation of vote

HRC13 / Follow-up to the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict

Mr President,

I have the honor to make this explanation of vote also on behalf of Hungary and Slovakia.

Hungary, the Netherlands and Slovakia believe that it is essential that the Council handles the Goldstone report and its follow up in a manner that serves our common objective. That is: to facilitate the restart of peace negotiations between the concerned parties and to guarantee unhindered investigations on both sides as proposed in the Goldstone report. Respect for international humanitarian and human rights law must remain an integral part of this process.

The present resolution is silent on follow-up by both parties. Instead, it calls for a Committee of Independent Experts to report back to the Council, thus creating another follow-up mechanism. It is the primary responsibility of the concerned parties to conduct their own in-depth investigations. If so desired, they can ask the international community for technical assistance. The follow up mechanism that is proposed does not take into account the responsibilities of the parties themselves.

We consider the call for the establishment of an escrow fund premature, given that the investigations by the parties have not yet been completed.

We do not see how the call for a Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention benefits the restart of peace negotiations. We do see a real risk that it leads to further polarisation.

Finally, the launch of a discussion on the use of certain types of ammunitions falls outside the scope of the mandate of this Council. Other bodies are mandated to discuss arms control and the use of specific arms.

We urge the concerned parties to pursue their investigations into violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. The outcome of these investigations should be referred back to this Council as the UN institution that mandated the Goldstone commission.

For these reasons, Hungary, the Netherlands and Slovakia will vote against the resolution.

Thank you Mr. President.