

Explanation of vote before the vote

Australia's position on this resolution is guided by the conviction that investigations into incidents where international law may have been breached must be independent and impartial. Australia has strongly supported such investigations. We have done so recently in relation to allegations of chemical weapons use in Syria.

However, we have serious concerns that this resolution remains one-sided, leaving the inquiry that the resolution seeks to establish open to criticism and accusations of bias.

The resolution's language prejudices an outcome of the inquiry.

The resolution and any inquiry must also acknowledge the role of Hamas in the recent events. As it stands, Israel is mentioned throughout while Hamas is not mentioned at all.

Further, the inquiry's geographical mandate apparently covers the entirety of the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and includes part of Jerusalem, over an unlimited time period. This resolution overreaches and, in doing so, fails to give the events that have transpired on the Gaza perimeter the specific attention they deserve.

I reiterate that Australia is of the view that investigations into allegations of breaches of international law must be independent and impartial. That is what our goal should be today. As it stands, we are very concerned that this resolution does not achieve this.

For these reasons, Australia will vote against this resolution.