



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya
to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY AMB MICHAEL KIBOINO, DEPUTY

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

68TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON

THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE

RESOLUTION 76/262

WEDNESDAY, 26 APRIL 2023

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL

Thank you, Mr. President,

1. My delegation commends the President of the General Assembly for convening this debate marking the first anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 76/262 otherwise known as the Veto Initiative.
2. As one of the core Veto Initiative countries, Kenya welcomed the adoption Resolution 76/262 as a significant step in improving the work of the United Nations, by creating a form of accountability for the use of the Veto by any of the Permanent Members of the Security Council. My delegation commends the efforts of Liechtenstein as well as the co-authors for this historic achievement.
3. This resolution has enhanced the General Assembly's engagement in the maintenance of international peace and security. It has provided a forum for Member States to play a more active role particularly when the Security Council is unable to act due to the application of the veto by one or more of its permanent members.
4. We believe it has contributed to a greater sense of accountability by making it more difficult for permanent members to use the veto without facing some sort of scrutiny by the General Assembly. It may also encourage greater cooperation and compromises within the Security Council, thus leading to more effective responses to international crises.
5. However, it is important to note that the General Assembly does not have the powers under the UN Charter to compel states to act. In this regard, the effectiveness of this Resolution will largely depend on the willingness of Member States to meaningfully engage with it. And we encourage all Members to do so.
6. But more fundamentally, it should be understood that the veto is not a privilege, but an international responsibility to be applied responsibly and only in exceptional circumstances and solely in the interest of international peace and security. This resolution is a reminder that the Security Council holds a critical

mandate in trust for the wider United Nations membership. The Security Council should, therefore, in all its engagements, including the use of the veto, be accountable to the General Assembly.

7. Mr. President, while appreciating the contributions of the veto resolution, Kenya believes that a reform of the Security Council is what is needed to comprehensively address not just the use of the veto, but also the need to ensure that the Council is more representative and effectively responsive to today's challenges.
8. Kenya subscribes to the Common African Position espoused by the Ezulwini Consensus - a position that seeks to remedy the historical injustices of non-representation and under-representation of the Continent in the permanent member category and non-permanent member category respectively.
9. The Common African Position is also clear on the question of the veto. If the pursuit of the purposes of the UN Charter is based on the principle of sovereign equality of states, then the veto is a contradiction that should be abolished. But if it is to be retained in a reformed Security Council, it must be extended to new permanent members with all its attributes, including the prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership.
10. In conclusion, I reaffirm Kenya's support for the veto initiative as an accountability instrument that also contributes to a quest for a more effective rules-based multilateral order.

I thank you