

COUNTRIES WILL HAVE TO 'JUSTIFY' VETO VOTES AT UN

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The move mandates that the General Assembly convene within 10 days after a veto.

The 193 members of the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus on Tuesday a resolution requiring the five permanent members of the Security Council to justify their use of the veto.

The push for reform, which was greeted with applause in the chamber, was revived by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The measure is intended to make veto-holders United States, China, Russia, France and Britain "pay a higher political price" when they use the veto to strike down a Security Council resolution, said an ambassador who asked to remain anonymous.

It is unclear if the five permanent members will use the veto less, or more — as they could propose controversial texts they know their rivals will veto only to force them to justify their stance publicly.

First proposed more than two years ago, the measure provides for the General Assembly to be convened within 10 working days after a veto "to hold a debate on the situation as to which the veto was cast"..

Almost 100 countries joined Liechtenstein in co-sponsoring the reform, including the United States, Britain and France.

Neither Russia nor China were among the sponsors, though. A diplomat from one of the two countries, who asked not to be named, criticised the move, saying it will "divide" the UN even further.

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