

SAFT MOCK MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2019
SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS



**Study guide on “ The question to statehood with special
Emphasis on Palestine”**

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Welcome Remarks

Honourable delegates,

We warmly welcome you all to the Security Council of Mock Mun 2019 Saint Anthony's High School Faisal town branch.

This year the security council will be debating a highly challenging and intense topic

“the question to statehood with special emphasis on Palestine”

This topic earns major importance in the real UN Security Council. We believe it is broad enough for every country to contribute in debate, but still specific enough to create a sufficiently concrete draft resolution. This present study guide should serve as an introduction and overview for you get to know different facets and major challenges to be tackled.

We would nevertheless firmly encourage you to use the suggestions for further research and additionally to get closely acquainted with your country's position. This combination should be best for everyone to take part effectively in the committee.

We are especially heartily welcoming all MUN Newcomers in our committee. Don't be shy, just start talking and debating, and you surely will catch the spirit, feel the groove and quickly be fully in MUN mode!

See you all in June

Best,

Your chairs,

Neha Khawer and Fasih Alam Khan

Chair Introduction:

Neha Khawer

Honorable Delegates,

As one of the chairs of this year's SAFT MOCKMUN I feel so excited to welcome you to our committee. For sure, you are already just as keen to start the conference as we are.

Whether you have only just recently entered the colorful world of MUNs or have already gained some experience as a delegate, my co-chair Fasih and I, will do our very best to make your experience as rewarding, valuable, interesting, informative, but above all as fun as possible for each one of you.

I personally have been infected by the MUN spirit and just love the combination of interesting political discussions to getting to know various great students from all kind of origins. I'm sure everyone of you will gain lots of valuable assets in social skills as rhetoric or bargaining as well as content-wise skills in finding international solution. and I'm very eager to support

you in this experience!

Apart from that my interest lies in football, (FCB is love not just because of the GOAT but overall, we can debate over it anytime) International Affairs, volunteering activities and social projects. I have been working as the Vice President at US Consulate youth councils Lahore, currently working with IROSE and experiencing world beyond beyond horizons.

I'm highly anticipating the weekend of June and can only promise to do my best to ensure an

intensive, interesting, and most important fun committee in this MockMun!

For any advice before or throughout the conference feel free to contact me at

nehakhawer196@gmail.com.

Let's have an amazing conference together!

Introduction to the topic

Background:

On 22 November 1974, [United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3236](#) recognized the right of the Palestinian people to [self-determination](#), [national independence](#) and [sovereignty](#) in [Palestine](#). It also recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and accorded it [observer](#) status in the United Nations. The designation "Palestine" for the PLO was adopted by the United Nations in 1988 in acknowledgment of the Palestinian declaration of independence, but the proclaimed state still has no formal status within the [system](#). Shortly after the 1988 declaration, the State of Palestine was recognized by many [developing states](#) in Africa and Asia, and from [communist](#) and [non-aligned](#) states. At the time, however, the United States was using its [Foreign Assistance Act](#) and other measures to discourage other countries and international organisations from extending recognition. Although these measures were successful in many cases, the [Arab League](#) and the [Organisation of the Islamic Conference](#) (OIC) immediately published statements of recognition of, support for, and solidarity with Palestine, which was accepted as a member state in both forums.

In February 1989 at the United Nations Security Council, the PLO representative acknowledged that 94 states had recognized the new Palestinian state. It subsequently attempted to gain membership as a state in several [agencies](#) connected to the United Nations, but its efforts were thwarted by U.S. threats to withhold funding from any organisation that admitted Palestine. For example, in April of the same year, the PLO applied for membership as a state in the [World Health Organization](#), an application that failed to produce a result after the U.S. informed the organisation that it would withdraw funding if Palestine were admitted. In May, a group of OIC members submitted to [UNESCO](#) an application for membership on behalf of Palestine, and listed a total of 91 states that had recognized the State of Palestine.

In June 1989, the PLO submitted to the government of Switzerland letters of accession to the [Geneva Conventions](#) of 1949. However, Switzerland, as the depositary state, determined that because the question of Palestinian statehood had not been settled within the international community, it was therefore incapable of determining whether the letter constituted a valid instrument of accession.

Consequently, in November 1989, the Arab League proposed a General Assembly resolution to formally recognize the PLO as the government of an independent Palestinian state. The draft, however, was abandoned when the U.S. again threatened to cut off its financing for the United Nations should the vote go ahead. The Arab states agreed not to press the resolution, but demanded that the U.S. promise not to threaten the United Nations with financial sanctions again.

Many of the early statements of recognition of the State of Palestine were termed ambiguously. In addition, hesitation from others did not necessarily mean that these nations did not regard Palestine as a state. This has seemingly resulted in confusion regarding the number of states that have officially recognized the state declared in 1988. Numbers reported in the past are often conflicting, with figures as high as 130 being seen frequently.

Israeli Position:

Between the end of the [Six-Day War](#) and the [Oslo Accords](#), no Israeli government proposed a Palestinian state. Even after the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in 1994, most Israeli mainstream politicians were opposed to the idea. During Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government of 1996–1999, he went as far as to accuse the two previous governments of Rabin and Peres of bringing closer to realisation what he claimed to be the "danger" of a Palestinian state, and stated that his main policy goal was to ensure that the Palestinian Authority didn't evolve beyond an autonomy.

In November 2001, [Ariel Sharon](#) was the first Israeli Prime Minister to proclaim that a Palestinian state was the solution to the conflict and the goal of his administration. The government headed by [Ehud Olmert](#) repeated the same objective. Following the inauguration of the present [Netanyahu government](#) in 2009, the government again claimed that a Palestinian state posed a danger for Israel.] The government position changed, however, following pressure from the [Obama administration](#), and on 14 June 2009, [Netanyahu](#) for the first time made a speech in which he supported the notion of a [demilitarized](#) and territorially reduced Palestinian state. This position met some criticism for its lack of commitment on the territories to be ceded to the Palestinian state in the future.

The Israeli government has accepted in general the idea that a Palestinian state is to be established, but has refused to accept the 1967 borders either as compulsory or as a basis for final border negotiations, due to security concerns. Israeli military experts have argued that the 1967 borders are strategically indefensible. It also opposes the Palestinian plan of approaching the UN General Assembly on the matter of statehood, as it claims it does not honor the Oslo Accords agreement in which both sides agreed not to pursue unilateral moves.

Palestine in United Nations:

On 14 October 1974, the [Palestine Liberation Organization](#) (PLO) was recognized by the UN [General Assembly](#) as the representative of the Palestinian people and granted the right to participate in the deliberations of the General Assembly on the question of Palestine in plenary meetings.

On 22 November 1974, the PLO was granted [non-state observer](#) status, allowing the PLO to participate in all Assembly sessions, as well as in other UN platforms.

On 15 December 1988, [UN General Assembly Resolution 43/177](#) "acknowledged" the [Palestinian Declaration of Independence](#) of November 1988 and replaced the designation "Palestine Liberation Organization" by the designation "Palestine" in the United Nations system.

On 23 September 2011, President [Mahmoud Abbas](#) on behalf of the PLO submitted an application for membership of Palestine in the United Nations.

On 29 November 2012, the General Assembly granted Palestine [non-member observer state](#) status in [United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19](#).

On 17 December 2012, UN Chief of Protocol [Yeocheol Yoon](#) decided that "the designation of 'State of Palestine' shall be used by the Secretariat in all official United Nations documents".

Application for UN membership 2011:

Main article: [Palestine 194](#)

After a two-year impasse in negotiations with Israel, the Palestinian Authority began a diplomatic campaign to gain recognition for the State of Palestine on the borders prior to the [Six-Day War](#), with [East Jerusalem](#) as its capital. The efforts, which began in late 2009, gained widespread attention in September 2011, when President [Mahmoud Abbas](#) submitted an application to the United Nations to accept Palestine as a member state. This would constitute collective recognition of the State of Palestine, which would allow its government to pursue legal claims against other states in [international courts](#).

In order for a state to gain membership in the General Assembly, its application must have the support of two-thirds of [member states](#) with a prior recommendation for admission from the [Security Council](#). This requires the absence of a [veto](#) from any of the Security Council's five permanent members. At the prospect of a veto from the United States, Palestinian leaders signalled they might opt instead for a more limited upgrade to "non-member state" status, which requires only a [simple majority](#) in the General Assembly but provides the Palestinians with the recognition they desire.

The campaign, dubbed "Palestine 194", was formally backed by the Arab League in May, and was officially confirmed by the PLO on 26 June. The decision has been labelled by the Israeli government as a unilateral step, while the Palestinian government has countered that it is essential to overcoming the current impasse. Several other countries—such as Germany and Canada—have also denounced the decision and called for a prompt return to negotiations. However, many others—such as Norway and Russia—have endorsed the plan, as has [Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon](#), who stated: "UN members are entitled whether to vote for or against the Palestinian statehood recognition at the UN."

During the lead-up to the vote, Russia, China, and Spain publicly pledged their support for the Palestinian bid, as have inter-governmental organisations such as the [African Union](#), and the [Non-Aligned Movement](#).

Israel has taken steps to counter the initiative, and Germany, Italy, Canada and the U.S. have announced publicly they would vote against the resolution. Israeli and U.S. diplomats began a campaign pressuring many countries to oppose or abstain from the vote.

Efforts from both Israel and the U.S. have also focused on pressuring the Palestinian leadership to abandon its plans and return to negotiations. In the U.S., [Congress](#) passed a bill denouncing the initiative and calling on the [Obama](#) administration to veto any resolution that would recognize a Palestinian state declared outside of an agreement negotiated by the two parties. A similar bill was passed in the [Senate](#), which also threatened a withdrawal of aid to the West Bank. In late August, another congressional bill was introduced which proposes to block U.S. government [funding for](#) any United Nations entity that supports giving Palestine an elevated status. Several top U.S. officials, including ambassador to the United Nations [Susan Rice](#) and consul-general in Jerusalem Daniel Rubinstein, made similar threats.

Non Member Observer state status:

Further information: [United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19](#)



UN observer state status voting results:

■ In favour ■ Against ■ Abstentions ■ Absent ■ Non-members

During September 2012, Palestine decided to pursue an upgrade in status from "observer entity" to "non-member observer state". On 27 November of the same year, it was announced that the appeal had been officially made, and would be put to a vote in the General Assembly on 29 November, where their status upgrade was expected to be supported by a majority of states. In addition to granting Palestine "non-member observer state status", the draft resolution "expresses the hope that the Security Council will consider favorably the application submitted on 23 September 2011 by the State of Palestine for admission to full membership in the United Nations, endorses the two state solution based on the pre-1967 borders, and stresses the need for an immediate resumption of negotiations between the two parties."

On Thursday, 29 November 2012, in a 138–9 vote (with 41 abstaining) General Assembly resolution 67/19 passed, upgrading Palestine to "non-member observer state" status in the United Nations. The new status equates Palestine's with that of the [Holy See](#). The change in status was described by *The Independent* as "*de facto* recognition of the sovereign state of Palestine". Voting "no" were [Canada](#), the [Czech Republic](#), [Israel](#), the [Marshall Islands](#), the [Federated States of Micronesia](#), [Nauru](#), [Palau](#), [Panama](#) and the [United States of America](#).

The vote was an important benchmark for the [partially recognized](#) State of Palestine and its citizens, while it was a diplomatic setback for Israel and the United States. Status as an observer state in the UN will allow the State of Palestine to join treaties and [specialized UN agencies](#), the Law of the Seas treaty, and the International Criminal Court. It will permit Palestine to pursue legal rights over its territorial waters and air space as a sovereign state recognized by the UN, and allow the Palestinian people the right to sue for sovereignty over their territory in the International Court of Justice and to bring "crimes against humanity" and war-crimes charges, including that of unlawfully occupying the territory of [State of Palestine](#), against Israel in the [International Criminal Court](#).

The UN has, after the resolution was passed, permitted Palestine to title its representative office to the UN as "The Permanent Observer Mission of the **State of** Palestine to the United Nations", seen by many as a reflexion of the UN's [de facto](#) position of recognizing the State of Palestine's sovereignty under international law, and Palestine has started to re-title its name accordingly on postal stamps, official documents and passports. The Palestinian authorities have

also instructed its diplomats to officially represent the "[State of Palestine](#)", as opposed to the "[Palestine National Authority](#)". Additionally, on 17 December 2012, UN Chief of Protocol Yeocheol Yoon decided that "the designation of "State of Palestine" shall be used by the Secretariat in all official United Nations documents", recognizing the "[State of Palestine](#)" as the official name of the Palestinian nation.

On Thursday 26 September 2013 at the United Nations, Mahmoud Abbas was given the right to sit in the General Assembly's beige chair which is reserved for heads of state waiting to take the podium and address the General Assembly.











Diplomatic Recognitions:











UN member states:

Of the 193 member states of the United Nations, 137 (71%) have recognised the State of Palestine as of 3 August 2018. The list below is based on the list maintained by the Palestine Liberation Organization during the campaign for United Nations recognition in 2011, and maintained by the Permanent Observer Mission to the UN.

Some states, marked with an asterisk (*) below, expressly recognized the State of Palestine on the borders of 4 June 1967 (i.e., the [West Bank](#), [Gaza](#) and [East Jerusalem](#)), which constituted Arab territory prior to the [Six-Day War](#).

#	Name ^[85]	Date of recognition	Diplomatic relations ^[note 1]	Relevant membership, further details
1	 Algeria	15 November 1988 ^[2]	Yes ^[86]	Arab League, OIC, African Union (AU); Algeria–Palestine relations
2	 Bahrain	15 November 1988 ^[2]	Yes ^[87]	Arab League, OIC
3	 Iraq	15 November 1988 ^[2]	Yes	Arab League, OIC; Iraq–Palestine relations
4	 Kuwait	15 November 1988 ^[2]	Yes ^[88]	Arab League, OIC ^[89]
5	 Libya	15 November 1988 ^[2]	Yes	Arab League, OIC, AU
6	 Malaysia	15 November 1988 ^[2]	Yes	OIC; Malaysia–Palestine relations

7	 Mauritania	15 November 1988 ^[2]	Yes	Arab League, OIC, AU
8	 Morocco	15 November 1988 ^[2]	Yes	Arab League, OIC, AU ^{[90][91]}
9	 Somalia	15 November 1988 ^[2]	Yes	Arab League, OIC, AU
10	 Tunisia	15 November 1988 ^[2]	Yes ^[92]	Arab League, OIC, AU
11	 Turkey	15 November 1988 ^[2]	Yes ^[93]	OIC; Arab League, OIC Further details Recognition extended by both Democratic Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic , prior to Yemeni unification . In a joint letter to the UN Secretary-General sent just prior to unification, the Ministers of Foreign affairs of North and South Yemen stated that "All treaties and agreements concluded between either the Yemen Arab Republic or the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and other States and international organizations in accordance with international law which are in force on 22 May 1990 will remain in effect, and international relations existing on 22 May 1990 between the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic and other States will continue." ^[94] OIC
12	 Yemen	15 November 1988 ^[2]	Yes	OIC
13	 Afghanistan	16 November 1988 ^[2]	Yes ^[95]	Further details Recognition extended by the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan .
14	 Bangladesh	16 November 1988 ^[2]	Yes	OIC
15	 Cuba	16 November 1988 ^[2]	Yes	—
16	 Indonesia	16 November 1988 ^[96]	Yes ^[96]	OIC; Indonesia–Palestine relations

17	 Jordan	16 November 1988[2]	Yes	Arab League, OIC
18	 Madagascar	16 November 1988[2]	No	AU
19	 Malta	16 November 1988[2]	Yes	EU
20	 Nicaragua	16 November 1988[2]	Yes	—
21	 Pakistan	16 November 1988[2]	Yes	OIC; Pakistan–Palestine relations
22	 Qatar	16 November 1988[2]	Yes	Arab League
23	 Saudi Arabia	16 November 1988[2]	Yes	Arab League, OIC
24	 United Arab Emirates	16 November 1988[2]	Yes	Arab League, OIC; EU
33	 Czech Republic	18 November 1988[2]	Yes	Further details Recognition extended by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic . ^[2] Following its dissolution , both the Czech Republic and Slovakia retained ties. EU
34	 Slovakia	18 November 1988[2]	Yes	Further details Recognition extended by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic . ^[2] Following its dissolution , both the Czech Republic and Slovakia retained ties.
35	 Egypt	18 November 1988[2]	Yes	Arab League, OIC, AU; Egypt–Palestine relations
36	 Gambia	18 November 1988[84]	Yes	OIC, AU

37	 India	18 November 1988[2]	Yes[102]	India–Palestine relations UNSC (permanent); Palestine–Russia relations
39	 Russia	19 November 1988[2]	Yes[103]	Further details Recognition extended as the Soviet Union. President Dmitry Medvedev reconfirmed the position in January 2011. Arab League, OIC Further details
107	 Lebanon	30 November 2008	Yes[147]	Date given is that of first official recognition. In Palestine's application to UNESCO in May 1989, Lebanon was listed as having recognised the State of Palestine, but without a date.[2]The list was submitted without objection from Lebanon, but later sources have shown that official recognition was not accorded until 2008.[148] At that time, the Lebanese cabinet approved the establishment of full diplomatic relations with the State of Palestine, but did not set a date for when this was to occur. On 11 August 2011, the cabinet agreed to implement its earlier decision and Abbas formally inaugurated his government's embassy in Beirut on 16 August
122	 Syria	18 July 2011*[176]	Yes[177]	Arab League, OIC
123	 Liberia	19 July 2011[150]	No	

No Diplomatic Recognition

Australia:

Australian policy calls for a [two-state solution](#), but it has not supported calls toward Palestinian statehood in the past, insisting instead on a negotiated settlement. In regards to a resolution to admit Palestine as a UN non-member observer state, a division in positions emerged: Former Foreign Minister [Kevin Rudd](#) recommended abstaining from the vote, whilst former Prime Minister [Julia Gillard](#) declared strong support for Israel. In response, Gillard noted: "There isn't a resolution available for people to read or respond to. If such a resolution does hit the deck, then in deciding how Australia will vote, we will bring our very long-standing principles about questions in the Middle East. That is, we are long-standing supporters of a two-state solution." In 2014, Australia voted against a United Nations Security Council draft resolution proposing the withdrawal of Israeli forces from [Gaza](#) and [The West Bank](#) by 2017.

Austria:

Austria conferred full diplomatic status on the PLO representation in Vienna on 13 December 1978, under then-chancellor [Bruno Kreisky](#). In June 2011, Foreign Minister [Michael Spindelegger](#) said that Austria "had not yet made up its mind whether to support a UN recognition of a Palestinian state", adding that he preferred to wait for a joint EU approach to the issue. "We will decide at the last moment because it might still give [the two parties] the opportunity to bring the Middle East peace process back on track." Spindelegger also suggested that the EU draft its own version of the resolution.

Further details

In Annex II of the State of Palestine's UNESCO application, Austria was initially listed as having extended recognition on 14 December 1988. However, the submitting states (Algeria, Indonesia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal and Yemen) later requested that Austria be removed from the list.

Canada

Canada supports the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state, but only as part of a "comprehensive, just and lasting peace settlement". The [Harper administration](#) is traditionally regarded as a staunch supporter of Israel. In July 2011, the spokesman for Foreign Minister [John Baird](#) stated, "Our government's long-standing position has not changed. The only solution to this conflict is one negotiated between and agreed to by the two parties. ... One of the states must be a [Jewish state](#) and recognized as such, while the Palestinian state is to be a [non-militarized](#) one"

France

"France supports the solution of two nation states living side-by-side in peace and security, within safe and recognized borders." In May 2011, Sarkozy said that if peace talks with Israel had not resumed by September, he would recognize the State of Palestine as part of its bid at the United Nations.¹ This echoed statements made in March by Nabil Shaath, who claimed to have received a promise from France that it would recognize in September a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders. According to Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, however, Sarkozy had said that France's support would require the Palestinians to recognize Israel as the state of the Jewish people. This was confirmed in July, when Foreign Minister [Alain Juppé](#) stated that any solution to the conflict would require the recognition of "the nation-state of Israel for the Jewish people, and the nation-state of Palestine for the Palestinian people. This broke with the European Union's traditional position, which adamantly opposes any mention of Israel as a Jewish state. Sarkozy later went full-circle on this policy, reportedly saying that the idea of a Jewish state was "silly". In August, Sarkozy stressed the importance of a united EU position on the September initiative, and proposed a compromise where the State of Palestine would be given observer status instead of full membership. The proposal, which was to prevent a split among members of the EU, included a promise from Paris and other members that they would vote for the resolution. In October 2014, France's foreign minister said France would recognize a Palestinian state even if peace talks with Israel fails. On 2 December 2014 the French National Assembly approved a non-binding motion calling on the government to recognizing Palestine.

Germany

In April 2011, Chancellor [Angela Merkel](#) labelled the Palestinian bid for recognition a "unilateral step", and stated unequivocally that Germany will not recognize a Palestinian state without its prior acceptance by Israel. "Unilateral recognitions therefore definitely do not contribute to achieving this aim ... This is our stance now and it will be our stance in September. There needs to be mutual recognition, otherwise it is not a two-state solution". She also reaffirmed her government's commitment to see an agreement reached as soon as possible. "We want a two-state solution. We want to recognize a Palestinian state. Let us ensure that negotiations begin. It is urgent".

Further details

The [German Democratic Republic](#) recognised the State of Palestine on 18 November 1988, but it later [unified](#) with the [Federal Republic of Germany](#) and the current government does not recognise it.

Italy

May 2011, at an event in Rome celebrating Israel's independence, then Prime Minister [Silvio Berlusconi](#) said that [Italy](#) would not recognize a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood, pledging his country's support for Israel. In June, he reiterated Italy's position against unilateral

actions on either side of the [conflict](#), stressing that "peace can only be reached with a common initiative through negotiations". This position was shared by parliamentarians, who drafted a letter to the United Nations stating that "a premature, unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood would [...] undermine rather than resolve the Israeli–Palestinian peace process". Nevertheless, at the same time, Italy upgraded the diplomatic status of the Palestinian delegation in [Rome](#) to a [mission](#), similarly to what other EU countries were doing, giving the head of the delegation [ambassadorial status](#).¹ Moreover, on 31 October 2011, Italy [did not oppose](#) Palestine's [UNESCO membership bid](#)^[279] and, on 29 November 2012, Italy voted in favour of [UN Resolution 67/19](#), giving Palestine a [non-member observer state](#) status at the United Nations. Italy's opposition to unilateral actions was reiterated on 21 December 2017, when it voted in favour of a UN draft resolution calling on all countries to comply with [Security Council](#) resolutions regarding the [status of Jerusalem](#), following the decision by the U.S. to [move its embassy](#) to Israel from [Tel Aviv](#) to the [city](#)

Japan

Japan supports a two-state solution to the conflict, and is firmly committed to the establishment of a Palestinian state. In October 2007, a Japanese Justice Ministry official said "Given that the Palestinian Authority has improved itself to almost a full-fledged state and issues its own passports, we have decided to accept the Palestinian nationality". Responding to Israeli settlement activities in 2010, the Japanese government stated that it would not recognize any act that prejudices the final status of Jerusalem and the territories in the pre-1967 borders. Likewise, in January 2011, it declared that it would not recognize the annexation of East Jerusalem by Israel

Netherlands

In June 2011, Foreign Minister [Uri Rosenthal](#) stated that the request to admit Palestine at the United Nations would "not be supported by the Netherlands". He called instead for a resumption of negotiations: "We will continue to stress for a restart to direct negotiations." He insisted that a peace deal must be based "on an agreement between all parties", and that the Netherlands was opposed to anything done without the consent of both parties. Abbas highlighted the importance of the Dutch role in the peace process, precisely because it maintained close ties with Israel: "It doesn't disturb us at all. They play a very important role and the Palestinian people are very appreciative of their help.

New Zealand

New Zealand support a two-state solution to the peace process. It also maintains a policy of not expressing explicit recognition of new states, preferring to imply recognition through actions rather than formal declarations. For Palestine, this would mean upgrading its accredited delegation to a diplomatic status. In early September 2011, Foreign Minister [Murray McCully](#) said that the government would not make a decision until the wording of the resolution was released. "We've got a reputation for being fair minded and even handed on this matter

and all we can do is wait to see the words. He also told Riyad al-Malki that he had refused to give any pledges Israel to oppose to vote.

Spain

On 1 July 2011, the Spanish parliament passed a resolution urging its government to recognize the State of Palestine on the 1967 borders. Prior to this, Nabil Shaath had claimed in May that Spain intended to recognize the Palestinian state before September. In late July, Foreign Minister [Trinidad Jiménez](#) said that Spain supports the bid, but that it would not determine its position until the proposal is made official. In an interview with *El País* in August, Jiménez confirmed Spain's support: "We are working with the idea that there is a majority in the EU that will support moving forward with the recognition of Palestine." She added that it was the right time to do this, since it would give Palestinians much needed hope about their future state. On 20 November 2014, the Spanish parliament approved a non-binding motion calling on the government to recognize Palestine by a vote of 319–2

United Kingdom

In September 2011, Britain said it would recognize Palestine as a state, but only with non-member observer status, rather than full membership, at the United Nations.^[346] In October 2014, the [UK House of Commons](#) passed a symbolic non-binding [Motion](#) by a vote of 274 in favour to 12 against which called on the Government to recognize Palestine.^{[347][348]} Also in October 2014, the devolved government of [Scotland](#) called for recognition of Palestine as an independent state and for the UK to open an [Embassy](#).

United States

President [Barack Obama](#) declared U.S. opposition to the bid in his speech to the General Assembly, saying that "genuine peace can only be realized between Israelis and Palestinians themselves" and that "[u]ltimately, it is Israelis and Palestinians – not us – who must reach an agreement on the issues that divide them". Obama told Abbas that they would veto any United Nations Security Council move to recognize Palestinian statehood.

European Union

In March 1999, the [European Union](#) confirmed in the *Berlin Declaration* the Palestinian right to self-determination, including the right to a viable and peaceful sovereign Palestinian State. This right was declared "not subject to any veto". The EU supports a Palestinian state within the pre-1967 borders, with only minor modifications mutually agreed. Further, the EU advocates Jerusalem as the future capital of both Israel and Palestine. In July 2009, EU foreign policy chief [Javier Solana](#) called for the United Nations to recognize the Palestinian state by a set deadline even if a settlement had not been reached: "The mediator has to set the timetable. If the parties are not able to stick to it, then a solution backed by the international community should ... be put on the table. After a fixed deadline, a UN Security Council resolution ... would accept the Palestinian state as a full member of the UN, and set a calendar for implementation." In December, the [Council of the European Union](#) endorsed a set of conclusions on the Israeli–Palestinian conflict which forms the basis of present EU policy. It reasserted the objective of a

two-state solution, and stressed that the union "will not recognize any changes to the pre-1967 borders including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties." It recalled that the EU "has never recognized the annexation of East Jerusalem" and that the State of Palestine must have its capital in Jerusalem. In December 2010, the Council reiterated these conclusions and announced its readiness, when appropriate, to recognize a Palestinian state, but encouraged a return to negotiations. The EU is the single largest donor of foreign aid to the Palestinians. Following a meeting of the union's foreign ministers on 2 September, [Catherine Ashton](#) stated that the EU position would depend on the wording of the Palestinian proposal. After the PNA confirmed that it would request full membership, an EU counter initiative was put forward which would see Palestine's status upgrade to that of an observer state. The proposal would include a promise from all members that they would vote for the resolution; in exchange the PNA must drop its plan to request full membership. Israel condemned the proposal, and Ashton, under pressure from Netanyahu and the U.S., raised a proposal of her own which did not include recognition of a state. Her proposal was rejected by several member states, which said she acted without authority and that under these terms members were bound to split their votes. On 29 September, the European Parliament passed a resolution stating that it "Supports and calls on member states to be united in addressing the legitimate demand of the Palestinians to be represented as a state at the United Nations." In December 2014, the European Parliament voted in favour of a non-binding resolution calling for the recognition of Palestinian statehood as part of a two-state solution and alongside the development of the peace process with 498 votes in favour, 88 against and 111 abstentions.

Member states (9 / 28) Candidates (5 / 6)

Members: Austria • Belgium • [Bulgaria](#) † • [Croatia](#) • [Cyprus](#) † • [Czech Republic](#) † • Denmark • [Estonia](#) • Finland • France • Germany • Greece • Hungary † • [Ireland](#) • Italy • [Latvia](#) • [Lithuania](#) • [Luxembourg](#) • [Malta](#) † • Netherlands • Poland † • Portugal • [Romania](#) † • [Slovakia](#) † • [Slovenia](#) • Spain • Sweden † • United Kingdom

Candidates: [Albania](#) † • [Iceland](#) † • [Macedonia](#) • [Montenegro](#) † • [Serbia](#) † • Turkey †

† – Have recognised the State of Palestine.

treaty relations

The State of Palestine is a party to several multilateral treaties, registered with five [depositories](#): the United Kingdom, [UNESCO](#), United Nations, the Netherlands and Switzerland. The ratification of the UNESCO conventions took place in 2011/2012 and followed Palestine becoming a member of UNESCO, while the ratification of the other conventions were performed in 2014 while negotiations with Israel were in an impasse.

In an objection of 16 May 2014, Israel informed the Secretary General of the United Nations that it did not consider that "Palestine" (parenthesis added by Israel) met the definition of statehood and that its ratification had been "without effect upon Israel's treaty relations under the Convention". The United States and Canada lodged similar objections. Palestine participated in the negotiation of the UN [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#) and voted in favour of its adoption on 7 July 2017

Reference

1. ["Palestinians win implicit U.N. recognition of sovereign state"](#). Reuters. 29 November 2012. Retrieved 29 November 2012.
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