



ODUMUNC 2025 Issue Brief
Fourth Committee, Special Political and Decolonization



The Right of the Palestinian People to Self-Determination



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Palestinians to become refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and elsewhere.^{1, 2}

The Palestinian right to self-determination is supported by international documents, including the UN Charter and several General Assembly resolutions. These affirm that all people have the right to choose their own government and develop their economy, society, and culture.³ How to balance the competing claims of the parties while upholding international law and human rights has become a primary challenge of the United Nations.

Already over 140 UN Member States recognize the full *national sovereignty* of Palestine. The Member States of the UN passed numerous resolutions affirming the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. However, achieving a lasting solution has proven futile.⁴ The issue is made more complicated by political interests, regional conflicts, and the different opinions of member nations on how peace and stability should be achieved in the region.⁵ For example, while some nations support creating two separate states for Israelis and Palestinians,





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Background

The right to national self-determination finds its root in the broader context of decolonization and the principle of self-determination in the UN Charter. Since the 1970s, the UN consistently affirmed the Palestinians right to self-determination. For example, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in December 2023, reaffirming the rights of the Palestinian people and calling for the implementation of a two-state solution¹⁰. The resolution was supported by the majority of member states, which means a



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Resolving this internal conflict requires



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Council passed resolutions like Resolution 2334 (2016), reaffirming that Israeli settlements in the





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called for an end to the occupation of Palestinian territories. The resolution was adopted with a vote of 143 in favor, 9 against, and 25 abstentions. This is a significant step towards recognizing the statehood and sovereignty of Palestine.³³

UN Security Council Resolutions

” **Resolution 242 (1967)**: This demanded that the Israeli armed forces leave the territories taken over (r)8.9 (6aa1 (i)-27g_11.2 (r)-1.9 (r)8.9-nBD(t)-(t)8.2 (t)-4 -2.I)11.2 (v1 (i)-2.6 (2i3d)-1s2r.6 (2 (ses)TJ-C





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recognition by the international community.⁴⁵

- ” **Recognition of Sovereignty:** This involves the acknowledgement of a state’s supreme authority over its territory and the right to govern without external interference. This is important for a state’s participation in international law and global governance. Sovereignty recognition is a precondition for full UN membership and diplomatic relations. However, this recognition can be complex and politically sensitive. For example, the recognition of Palestine as a sovereign state has been a cause of disagreement for years now. Notwithstanding, over 140 nations recognize Palestine, which reflects a growing international consensus on its right to self-determination and sovereignty.⁴⁶

Major Bloc and Country Positions

China always supported the Palestinian right to self-determination. It often advocates for a peaceful resolution of the conflict through negotiations and dialogue using the UN framework. China continues to engage the Middle East to resolve the issue using its “Four-Point Plan,” which calls for a two-state solution adhering to the principle of “land for peace,” increasing humanitarian aid to Palestinians and enhancing international efforts to promote the

peace talks. China supports the resolutions of the UN and aligns itself with the Non-Aligned Movement and other developing countries on this issue.⁴⁷

The European Union supports a two-state solution that ensures a secure Israel and sovereign Palestinian state. The EU has condemned the Israeli settlements as illegal under international law and called for a stop to the settlement expansion, which it sees as the barrier to peace. The EU offers financial aid to the Palestinian Authority and supports initiatives that promote Palestinian state-building and development. The policies and actions of the EU are guided by international law and UN resolutions. However, sometimes there is a divergence among the EU members on how to engage the parties resulting in different levels of support for different UN resolutions.⁴⁸

The Non-Aligned Movement is a strong supporter of the Palestinian self-determination. The NAM agrees with the establishment of a Palestinian state and frequently condemns the Israel occupation, settlement activities, and violation of international law. NAM members have been the vocal voices calling for the Palestinian right to self-determination in international gatherings and as well as pushing for resolutions in the General Assembly in favor of the Palestinians. It emphasizes the adherence to international law and the undeniable rights of

⁴⁵ Ibid.; Wikipedia, 2024. “Member States of the United Nations,” Wikipedia, edited September 1, 2024, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Member_states_of_the_United_Nations.

⁴⁶ Nicole Hassenstab, 2024. “Three Questions on the Recognition of a Palestinian State,” American University, May 30, 2024, <https://www.american.edu/sis/news/20240530-three-questions-on-the-recognition-of-a-palestinian-state.cfm>.

⁴⁷ AP and TOI Staff, 2017. “China Pushes Four-Point Israeli-Palestinian Peace Plan | The Times of Israel,” The

Times of Israel, August 1, 2017, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/china-pushes-four-point-israeli-palestinian-peace-plan/>; Xinhua, 2021. “China Puts Forward Four-Point Proposal Regarding Palestine-Israel Conflict,” Xinhua, May 17, 2021, http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-05/17/c_139950043.htm.

⁴⁸ EEAS, 2010.7 (0)2004 Tw TD/(MCID24 125.642004 Tw Tw 0.2)-2.6 (h) (f)



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Palestinians, not excluding the right of return for refugees.⁴⁹

Russia supports the Palestinian self-determination and the creation of a sovereign state. Russia, as a member of the Middle East Quartet, including the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations, has been involved in mediating peace talks between Israel and Palestine. Russia has criticized Israeli settlement expansion and policies that hinder the peace efforts while advocating for direct negotiations between Israel and Palestine. In all these, Russia has maintained good relations with



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and actions in the occupied territories. It has called for international action to ensure Palestinian self-determination. The OIC also supports UN resolutions and other diplomatic efforts that affirm Palestinians' independent state.⁵⁴

African Union (AU): The African Union has consistently supported the Palestinian right to self-determination, drawing on its history (e)10.9.9-4.6 (s)8152.6 (r)52-4.6r)-4 (a)-1.6 (w Tw 1type /Head Tf0 T(n)10. (a)-1.6



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