

Palestinian flag to fly at UN HQ after 119 nations vote 'yes'

11/09/2015



**Trends** [Palestinian statehood](#)

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The resolution stated that flags of non-member observer states like Palestine “*shall be raised at [UN] Headquarters [in New York] and United Nations Offices following the flags of the member states.*”

The vote was passed with 119 votes out of 193 in favor. Among the European countries that voted ‘yes’ were France, Russia, Sweden, Italy, Spain, Ireland, Slovenia, Luxembourg, Belgium, Malta and Poland.

The majority of EU member states were among the 45 countries that chose to abstain. A total of eight countries voted against the idea, including the US and Israel.

**GA Hall**  
**General Assembly: 102nd Plenary meeting**

**Vote Name:**

**Item 120 A/69/L.87/Rev.1 Draft resolution Raising the flags of non-member observer States at the United Nations**

**Resolution 69/320**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>119</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>45</b>

Vote Time: 9/10/2015 5:22:56 PM

Y AFGHANISTAN	DOMINICA	A LITHUANIA	SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE
Y ALBANIA	Y DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Y LUXEMBOURG	Y SAUDI ARABIA
Y ALGERIA	Y ECUADOR	Y MADAGASCAR	Y SENEGAL
A ANDORRA	Y EGYPT	MALAWI	Y SERBIA
Y ANGOLA	Y EL SALVADOR	Y MALAYSIA	Y SEYCHELLES
Y ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	Y EQUATORIAL GUINEA	Y MALDIVES	Y SIERRA LEONE
Y ARGENTINA	ERITREA	Y MALI	A SINGAPORE
ARMENIA	A ESTONIA	Y MALTA	A SLOVAKIA
N AUSTRALIA	Y ETHIOPIA	N MARSHALL ISLANDS	Y SLOVENIA
A AUSTRIA	Y FIJI	Y MAURITANIA	Y SOLOMON ISLANDS
Y AZERBAIJAN	A FINLAND	Y MAURITIUS	Y SOMALIA
A BAHAMAS	Y FRANCE	Y MEXICO	Y SOUTH AFRICA
Y BAHRAIN	Y GABON	N MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF)	SOUTH SUDAN
Y BANGLADESH	Y GAMBIA	A MONACO	Y SPAIN
A BARBADOS	GEORGIA	Y MONGOLIA	Y SRI LANKA
Y BELARUS	A GERMANY	Y MONTENEGRO	Y SUDAN
Y BELGIUM	Y GHANA	Y MOROCCO	Y SURINAME
A BELIZE	A GREECE	Y MOZAMBIQUE	SWAZILAND
Y BENIN	Y GRENADA	A MYANMAR	Y SWEDEN
Y BHUTAN	A GUATEMALA	Y NAMIBIA	A SWITZERLAND
Y BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)	Y GUINEA	A NAURU	Y SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
A BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	GUINEA-BISSAU	Y NEPAL	Y TAJIKISTAN
Y BOTSWANA	Y GUYANA	A NETHERLANDS	A THAILAND
Y BRAZIL	HAITI	Y NEW ZEALAND	A THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
Y BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	Y HONDURAS	Y NICARAGUA	TIMOR-LESTE
A BULGARIA	A HUNGARY	Y NIGER	TOGO
Y BURKINA FASO	Y ICELAND	Y NIGERIA	TONGA
Y BURUNDI	Y INDIA	A NORWAY	A TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
Y CABO VERDE	Y INDONESIA	Y OMAN	Y TUNISIA
Y CAMBODIA	Y IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)	Y PAKISTAN	Y TURKEY
A CAMEROON	Y IRAQ	N PALAU	TURKMENISTAN
N CANADA	Y IRELAND	A PANAMA	N TUVALU
A CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	N ISRAEL	A PAPUA NEW GUINEA	UGANDA
Y CHAD	Y ITALY	PARAGUAY	A UKRAINE
Y CHILE	Y JAMAICA	Y PERU	Y UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Y CHINA	Y JAPAN	Y PHILIPPINES	A UNITED KINGDOM
A COLOMBIA	Y JORDAN	Y POLAND	Y UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
Y COMOROS	Y KAZAKHSTAN	A PORTUGAL	N UNITED STATES
Y CONGO	Y KENYA	Y QATAR	Y URUGUAY
Y COSTA RICA	KIRIBATI	A REPUBLIC OF KOREA	Y UZBEKISTAN
Y COTE D'IVOIRE	Y KUWAIT	A REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	A VANUATU
A CROATIA	Y KYRGYZSTAN	A ROMANIA	Y VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)
Y CUBA	Y LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	Y RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Y VIET NAM
A CYPRUS	A LATVIA	Y RWANDA	YEMEN
A CZECH REPUBLIC	Y LEBANON	Y SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	ZAMBIA
Y DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA	LESOTHO	Y SAINT LUCIA	Y ZIMBABWE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	A LIBERIA	Y SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	
A DENMARK	Y LIBYA	A SAMOA	
Y DJIBOUTI	A LIECHTENSTEIN	Y SAN MARINO	

Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah told reporters that he strongly believes this marks another step towards recognition of Palestinian statehood.

*"It's a step to the recognition of Palestine as a full member state of the United Nations,"* Hamdallah said in Paris.

Currently, the UN has only one other non-member observer state – the Vatican. The Holy See did not demonstrate any excitement when the idea was first brought up last month, however, and rejected the Palestinians' original proposal to introduce the resolution as a joint effort, asking the Vatican to co-sponsor the document.

The Vatican still remained unsure on Wednesday whether it will be flying its flag next to Palestine's.



Raising flags of non-member Observer States at the [#UN](#) resolution adopted! The [#Palestinian](#) flag will fly! [#PalFlag](#)

The observer flags could go up within 20 days, according to the resolution.

Palestinian diplomats would like to see the flag raised on September 30, marking the day when Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas addressed world leaders at the annual gathering of the UN General Assembly.

Israel criticized the UN's decision, claiming the international body is biased towards Palestinians.

*"The assembly would vote to declare the Earth is flat if the Palestinians proposed it,"* Israel's UN Ambassador Ron Prosor said.

[READ MORE: 13,000 Palestinian buildings to be demolished in West Bank – UN report](#)

At the same time, US Ambassador Samantha Power expressed concern that flying the flag at the UN will only create more tension between Israelis and Palestinians.

The occupied Palestinian territories have been seeking full independence from Israel for decades, with Palestinians demanding full recognition as a sovereign state from the UN and the international community.

This significant step forward for Palestinians comes after the General Assembly approved the de facto recognition of the sovereign state of Palestine in 2012.

At the end of 2014, a bid proposed by the Palestinians' calling for the creation of a Palestinian state and an end to Israeli "*occupation*" failed in the UN Security Council after the US used its veto power to kill the measure.

[READ MORE: Palestinian statehood bid fails at UN Security Council as US, Australia vote against](#)

In the beginning of September, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [voiced](#) his willingness to continue negotiations with Palestine "*without preconditions.*"

The last round of peace talks between the Israeli government and the Palestinians took place between July 2013 and April 2014. Israel halted the negotiations after Fatah, part of the Palestinian Authority, declared peace with Hamas, Israel's sworn enemy.

In a recent statement, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin said that the Israelis have the "*right*" to build settlements in the West Bank and it is "*not a matter of political debate.*" His comments are likely to cause controversy, with the EU and Palestine opposed to illegal Israeli development in the area.

Settlement building in occupied territories is considered illegal by international bodies. It has also been a major obstacle to peace negotiations. The Palestinians see the West Bank as part of any future independent state.

Currently, more than 500,000 Israelis live in West Bank settlements in and around East Jerusalem. All of them have been built since Israel occupied the Palestinian territories in 1967.

At the same time, Israel has maintained a blockade of the Gaza Strip since 2007, on the grounds of preventing arms from being delivered to the Hamas militant movement.

However, many human rights groups argue that Israel is deliberately trying to hurt the Palestinian population by not allowing humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip and preventing any kind of sea trade.



Gaza set to become uninhabitable by 2020, UN body warns <http://on.rt.com/6qc8>

The latest UN report said that *“almost all of the population”* is destitute in the Gaza Strip because wars and economic blockades have all but destroyed its entire economy. If the trend continues, the territory may become *“unlivable”* in five years, a UN conference has warned.

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