

## THE ROAD TO PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD

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**1948:** On 10 July, the League of Arab States Political Committee decides to establish a temporary Palestinian administration to manage the affairs of the Arab controlled territory following the UN Partition Resolution 181 and the end of the British Mandate.

On 1 October, the establishment of the “All-Palestine Government” is ratified by the first Palestinian national conference in Gaza, headed by Hajj Amin Al-Husseini, Grand Mufti of Jerusalem. The government is soon recognized by Arab states and the Arab League.

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**1949:** The Arab League Political Commission discusses the idea of presenting official representatives of the Palestinian people in front of the UN General Assembly in its term in Paris in September 1949, alongside the idea of establishing a Palestinian political and civil entity on the land of Palestine. Arab Higher Committee member Jamal Al-Husseini tours Arab capitals, all of which agreed to the idea with the exception of Jordan.

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**1950:** An annex added to the Charter of the Arab League stipulates that “Even though Palestine was not able to control her own destiny, it was on the basis of the recognition of her independence that the Covenant of the League of Nations determined a system of government for her. Her existence and her independence among the nations can, therefore, no more be questioned de jure than the independence of any of the other Arab States.”

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**1952:** The 17th session of the Arab League in Cairo on 23 September calls for the establishment of a Palestine Department within the Secretariat.

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**1957:** On 30 March, the Arab League Council meeting in Cairo reasserts the right of Palestinians to return to their homes and reject schemes to resettle Palestinians.

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**1960:** On 27 March, the formation of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) is announced. The same month, the Arab League Council in Cairo debates the organization of a proposed Palestinian government.

On 29 November, Ahmad Shuqeiri, in his capacity as Saudi Minister of State for UN affairs, addresses the UN, saying, inter alia, “The rights of the refugees (...) are natural, inherent and self-existing. They are not bestowed even by the United Nations, let alone Israel. They cannot be denied even by the United Nations, let alone Israel. They are vested in the refugees. (...) Thus consent or no consent, these rights are imprescriptible, irresistible and indivisible.

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**1963:** At the first Arab Summit Conference in Cairo (13-17 January), a Draft Constitution of the PLO is issued.

In September, the Arab League appoints Ahmad Al-Shuqeiri as Palestine delegate and commissions him to form and head a Palestinian delegation to the UN to defend the Palestinian cause. At the UN session in November he demands the return of refugees to their homeland.

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**1964:** Following an Arab League decision to that end the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is founded by a meeting of 422 Palestinian personalities on 28 May in Jerusalem. First elected head is Ahmed Shuqeiri. Also set up are a legislative body, the Palestine National Council (PNC), an Executive Committee, a National Fund, and the Palestine Liberation Army, and a National Covenant and Basic Law are drafted, implementing the right of return and exercising self-determination.

The PNC adopts the Palestine National Charter, outlining five principle Palestinian national demands: 1) total liberation of Palestine; 2) self-determination; 3) definition of Palestinians as “Arab nationals”; 4) the PLO would not exercise any sovereignty over Palestinian areas; and 5) Arab unity as the principal instrument of Palestinian liberation.

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**1964:** During the second Arab Summit in Alexandria (5-11 September), Arab states welcome “the establishment of the PLO as a basis of the Palestinian entity and as a pioneer in the collective Arab struggle for the liberation of Filastine”. A letter with the text of the Alexandria Summit Declaration is passed to the UNSC, confirming their commitment to up hold and restore the rights of the Palestinian people to their homeland officially recognize the PLO’s authority

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**1965:** The PLO establishes its first diplomatic ties beyond the Arab states by a military and diplomatic agreement with China in March 1965. The second session of the PNC convenes in Cairo (31 May-4 June), focusing on organizing the PLO as an umbrella for the Palestinian people. Ahmad Shuqeiri declares Palestinian rejection of the Tunisian President Habib Bourgiba’s plan that Arabs recognize Israel based on UN Partition Resolution 181 of 1947 as a means of resolving the Palestine Question.

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**1967:** In the course of the June War, some 300,000 Palestinian are displaced from West Bank and Gaza, many becoming refugees for a second time. On 23 November, the PLO issues a statement in Cairo, rejecting UN Resolution 242 of November 1967, which called on Israel to withdraw its army from territories occupied in the course of the war.

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**1968:** Fateh declares its political program, calling for the establishment of a democratic state in Palestine where Arabs and Jews will live together without discrimination. The fourth PNC session held in Cairo on July 10-17 recognizes the success of the guerrilla organizations by electing their leaders to key positions in the PLO, amends the Palestinian National Charter, emphasizes a distinct Palestinian identity and the leading role of the PLO, and calls for the total liberation of all of Palestine.

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**1969:** The fifth PNC in Cairo (1-4 February) takes final steps towards reforming the PLO. A new Executive Committee is elected, as well as Yasser Arafat as new Chairman. The Fateh program of both armed resistance and state-building comes to direct and dominate PLO strategy

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**1970:** The PLO becomes an observer in the Non-Aligned Movement at its third summit in Lusaka

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**1972:** In March, the PLO Executive Committee rejects “absolutely and definitively” King Hussein’s “United Arab Kingdom” plan for a Jordanian-Palestinian federation with the King as head of state. A Palestinian Popular Congress held in Cairo on 5 April follows suit as does the PNC at its 10th session in Cairo (6-10 April 1972). Also rejected is Egyptian President Sadat’s proposal to form a Palestinian government-in-exile.

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**1973:** The summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Algiers in September acknowledges the growing influence of the PLO by giving it the status of the “legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and their legitimate struggle.”

The second defeat of united Arab troops in the October (Yom Kippur) War weakens the basis for demands for a total Palestinian state.

In November, the foreign ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC) issue a declaration, reaffirming the principles of UN Resolution 242 and adding “recognition that in the establishment of a just and lasting peace account must be taken of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.”

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**1974:** The PLO attains full membership in the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) on 22 February 1974.

In an international context newly defined by the October War and the Cold War détente, the PLO shifts its strategy away from liberating the whole land of Palestine. At its 12th session (1-8 June 1974), the PNC approves the “Ten Point Program” (drafted by Arafat and his advisers), proposing a compromise with the Israelis and calling for a Palestinian national authority over any liberated part Palestine. In protest, several PLO factions form the ‘Rejectionist Front’. The PLO begins to turn its attention to state-building in the West Bank and Gaza Strip through institution-building, increasing membership in the Executive Committee, and promoting mass social action.

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**1974:** On 8 September, Soviet President Nicolai Podgorny publicly mentions the Palestinians’ “rights to establish their own statehood in one form or another.”

On 14 October, the UN General Assembly recognizes in Resolution 3210 the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people and invites it to participate in UNGA deliberation on the Question of Palestine.

On 28 October, the seventh Arab Summit convening in Rabat, Morocco, recognizes the PLO as “sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people,” and affirms “the right of the Palestinian people to establish an independent national authority in any Palestinian territory that is liberated.”

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**1974:** On 13 November, PLO Chairman Arafat becomes the first representative of a liberation movement, not a member state, to address the UN General Assembly plenary in New York. His speech (“Today I have come bearing an olive branch and a freedom fighter’s gun. Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand”), calls for the establishment of a secular, democratic Palestine, where Jews, too, will live in equality and freedom and increases international sympathy for the Palestinian cause.

On 22 November, UNGA Resolution 3236 reaffirms the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination without external interference, while UNGA Resolution 3237 grants the PLO observer status in the UN General Assembly.

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**1975:** At the Non-Aligned Movement’s Foreign Ministers Meeting in Lima in August, the PLO attains the status of a full participant which was confirmed at the Fifth Colombo Summit in 1976.

On 10 November, UNGA Resolution 3375 invites the PLO to participate in efforts for peace in the Middle East, a new benchmark in international recognition.

On 4 December, the UN Security Council considered a request by a member state (Egypt) for the participation of the PLO in its debates and decided to invite the representative of the PLO to this end.

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**1976:** The PLO opens an office in Moscow on 22 June (the USSR had announced its approval for the opening already in the summer of 1974).

Major nationalist pro-PLO candidates win a sweeping victory in the first municipal elections in the West Bank.

On 12 January, the UN Security Council votes 11-1 with 3 abstentions to allow the PLO to participate in a UNSC debate without voting rights, a privilege usually restricted to UN member state

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**1977:** The 13th PNC session in March in Cairo calls clearly and explicitly for the creation of “a national state” ... “on soil of the [Palestinian] homeland.”

In April, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) adopts Resolution 36 (IV), recommending to ECOSOC the amendment of ESCWA’s terms of reference so that the PLO could be included in its membership. In July, ECOSOC adopts the recommendation in Resolution 2089 (LEXIS) and the PLO becomes a full member of ESCWA.

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**1978:** The Israeli-Egyptian Camp David Accords of 17 September 1978 include a section titled “Framework for Peace in the Middle East Agreed at Camp David”, with a separate paragraph on the

West Bank and Gaza, stating that “the Palestinian people should participate in negotiations on the resolution of the Palestinian problem in all its aspects. To achieve that objective, negotiations relating to the West Bank and Gaza should proceed in three stages”, which are further outlined as establishing an elected self-governing authority in the West Bank and Gaza and withdrawal of Israeli armed forces, followed by transfer of authority during a transitional period not exceeding five years, and the beginning of negotiations (not later than the third year after the beginning of the transitional period) place to determine the final status of the West Bank and Gaza and its relationship with its neighbors.

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**1980:** The PLO succeeds in establishing ties with European nations and, on 13 June 1980, European heads of state and foreign ministers issue the Venice Declaration, reiterating the right to existence and security of all states in the Middle East, including the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

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**1981:** In August, Saudi Crown Prince Fahed proposes his eight-point peace plan to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories; removal of Israeli settlements; guaranteed freedom of worship in the holy places for all religions; affirmation of the Palestinian people’s right of return to their homes and compensation for those who decide not to do so; UN control of the WBGS for a transitional period; establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital; affirmation of the right of all states in the region to live in peace; the UN or some of its members guarantee and implement the above principles. The next day, the Arab League adopts the plan by an overwhelming majority

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**1982:** Invasion of Israeli forces into South Lebanon begins on 6 June 1982 (dubbed ‘Operation Peace of the Galilee’ by Israel), and directed by then Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. The operation leaves over 20,000 people dead and ends with Israel’s occupation of southern Lebanon and the negotiated passage of the PLO from Lebanon, which reestablishes its headquarters in Tunisia.

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**1982:** On 1 September US President Reagan proposes a diplomatic initiative (‘Reagan Plan’) for a 5-year transition period, beginning with free elections for a self-governing Palestinian Authority and a freeze in settlement activity, and ending in an entity in confederation with Jordan. PLO Chairman Arafat rejects a trusteeship role for Jordan. In New York, PLO official Khaled Al-Hassan says that the establishment of a Palestinian State is a prerequisite to PLO acceptance of the US peace plan.

In September, the 12th Summit Conference of the Arab League at Fez, Morocco, adopts a declaration calling for the withdrawal of Israel from territories occupied in 1967, the dismantling of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, reaffirmation of the Palestinian right of self-determination and establishment of an independent Palestinian State after a transition period under UN control. The Fez Declaration also called for the UN Security Council to guarantee peace “among all States of the region, including the independent Palestinian State”. Later that year, the General Assembly welcomed the Arab peace plan.

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**1983:** The 16th PNC session in Algeria in February affirms “continued adherence to independent Palestinian decisionmaking, its protection, and the resisting of all pressures from whatever source to detract from this independence.” PLO leader Salah Khalaf places priority on Palestinian statehood, saying the PLO will step aside and let West Bank mayors negotiate with the US or Israel if US President Reagan recognizes the Palestinian right to self-determination and the creation of a state.

Based on a decision taken in 1981 out of concern that a just solution to the Palestine Question had not been achieved, the UNGA convenes an International Conference on the Question of Palestine at its offices in Geneva from 29 August-7 September, attended by representatives of 137 States and the PLO. Israel, the US and some others oppose. The conference adopts a Declaration on Palestine and approves a Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights.

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**1985:** Yasser Arafat and King Hussein agree on a common approach to achieve a Middle East peace accord calling for the exchange of land for peace within the context of an international conference attended by the five permanent UNSC members and all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, where by PLO delegates would attend as part of a joint JordanianPalestinian team. In February, the PLO Executive Committee endorses the Amman Agreement, reiterates opposition to UNSC Resolution 242, and stresses that a Palestinian-Jordanian federation can occur only after an independent Palestine state is formed.

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**1986:** On 2 April, the PLO becomes a full member of the ‘Asia group,’ the second largest regional UN group.

Palestine is recognized as a member of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

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**1987:** In Algiers, the 18th PNC session (20-26 April) strongly endorses the convening of an international Middle East Peace Conference under the auspices of the UN and with the participation of the permanent members of UNSC as well as all concerned parties.

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**1988:** On 16 March, US Secretary of State George Shultz meets with PNC members Professor Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu Lughod to discuss his peace proposal (negotiations based on UNSC Resolution 242 between Israel and a JordanianPalestinian delegation)

The 19th PNC session in Algiers adopts on 15 November two landmark documents: a Political Communiqué, affirming the PLO's determination to reach a comprehensive political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the principles of international law (including UN and Arab summit resolutions), thus accepting UN Security Council Resolution 242, and the Palestinian Declaration of Independence, which is soon recognized by over 100 states.

On 9 December, the UN General Assembly grants the PLO the right to circulate communications related to the UNGA without intermediary.

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**1988:** On 13 December, PLO Chairman Arafat addresses the UNGA on the Question of Palestine in Geneva (where it has reconvened after the US refused to grant Arafat a visa), reiterating the declaration of independence of the State of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital, as well as the right of the refugees to return and the right of self-determination, reaffirming the PLO's rejection of terrorism in all its forms, including state terrorism, and inviting Israel to talk peace. Israel dismisses the offer as "propaganda".

At a press conference a day after his UNGA appearance, Arafat clarifies his speech, specifically mentioning "the right of all parties concerned in the Middle East conflict to exist in peace and security, including the State of Palestine, Israel, and their neighbors "according to the Resolutions 242 and 338." He further repeats "for the record that we totally and absolutely renounce all forms of terrorism, including individual, group and state terrorism." Following the statement, US Secretary Shultz announces that the US would open a substantive dialogue with the PLO, noting, though, that this did not imply acceptance of an independent Palestinian state.

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**1988:** On 15 December, the UNGA acknowledges the PNC's proclamation of the State of Palestine of 15 November 1988; affirms the need to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their sovereignty over their territory occupied since 1967; and decides that the designation "Palestine" should be used in place of the designation "Palestine Liberation Organization" in the UN system.

Cuba recognizes the Palestinian State.

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**1989:** On 2 April, Yasser Arafat is elected by the PLO Central Council in Tunis as the first President of the State of Palestine.

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**1990:** On 5 August, a meeting between Israeli MKs and PLO notables in Jerusalem to discuss joint work for peace marks the furthest any high-ranking group of elected Israeli officials have gone toward recognizing PLO as the legitimate representative of Palestinians

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**1991:** The 20th PNC session in Algeria (23-28 September) approves the Palestinian participation in the Madrid Peace Conference, based on the principle of 'land for peace' and UNSC Resolutions 242 and 338, and authorizes the PLO Executive Committee to deal with the matter.

On 31 October, Middle East Peace Conference opens in Madrid with delegations from Israel, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon as well as the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation; Haider Abdul Shafi heads the Palestinian team.

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**1992:** On 14 January, the Palestinian negotiation delegation presents a PLO-approved “outline model of the Palestinian Interim self-Government Authority (PISGA)” to the peace talks in Washington D.C., which it sees as “the basis for negotiations during this phase after the necessary preparatory steps referred to in our agenda have been taken, including the total cessation of all settlement activities.”

From 15-17 October, the PLO Central Council meets in Tunis to assess the peace process; the closing statement gives a ‘green light’ to peace delegates.

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**1993:** On 9 September, ahead of the signing of the Declaration of Principles, Israel and the PLO exchange mutual letters of recognition with Israel recognizing “the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people” and the PLO “the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace and security.”

On 13 September, the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles (DoP) is signed at the White House by Israeli FM Peres and PLO official Mahmoud Abbas.

On 18 September, the International Olympic Committee in Monte Carlo grants provisional recognition to the Palestine Olympic Committee, allowing Palestinians athletes to compete as Palestinians at the 1994 Winter Olympics.

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**1993:** In October, the PLO Central Council meeting in Tunisia (boycotted by the PFLP, DFLP, PSF, and PLF) accepts the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles and asks the PLO Executive Committee to form the Palestinian National Authority (PA), headed by Arafat, for the transitional period to assume powers transferred by Israel. In November, Chairman Arafat orders Palestinian forces to prepare to enter the occupied territories to form the Gaza-Jericho police force.

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**1994:** On 4 May, President Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin sign the Gaza-Jericho Self-Rule Accord in Cairo. Two days later the PLO Executive Committee meets in Tunis to approve the appointment of a 24-member Palestinian Authority, which holds its first official meeting on 26 May in Tunis. On 1 July, President Arafat returns to Palestine over the Rafah border. **1995:** On 1 January, the first letter with a Palestinian stamp is sent from Gaza - by President Arafat - to the PLO official in Sweden, and in March, the PA Interior Ministry begins issuing Palestinian passports. On 28 September, the PLO and Israel sign the ‘Oslo 2’ Agreement on the second stage of Palestinian Authority in Washington D.C.

Palestine is recognized as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) under the IOC code PLE.

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**1996:** On 20 January, the first Palestinian elections for a president (Arafat) and a Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) take place.

The PNC holds its 21st session in Gaza (22-25 April), for the first time since 1964 on Palestinian soil. It votes to “abrogate the provisions of the PLO Charter that are contrary to the exchanged letters between the PLO and ... Israel of 9 and 10 September 1993.”

On 5 June, a trilateral (Jordanian- Egyptian-Palestinian) summit in Aqaba endorses peace and stresses the inevitability of the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital.

In July, Runner Majdi Abu Mraheel, marks the first ever appearance of a Palestinian at the Olympic Games (in Atlanta).

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**1997:** On 10 January, the first flight of Palestine Airlines takes 48 pilgrims from Port Said to Saudi Arabia.

**1998:** On 7 July, UNGA Resolution 52/250 gives Palestine additional rights and privileges of participation, including the right to participate in the UNGA general debate; the right of inscription on the list of speakers under agenda items other than Palestinian and Middle East issues at UNGA plenary meetings; the right of reply; the right to raise points of order related to the proceedings on Palestinian and Middle East issues; the right to co-sponsor draft resolutions and decisions on Palestinian and Middle East issues; the right to make interventions; and the rearrangement of seating (immediately after non-member states and before the other observers), with six seats allocated in the UNGA Hall.

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**1998:** On 23 October, President Arafat and Prime Minister Netanyahu sign the Wye River Memorandum for the implementation of the Oslo II Agreement and the resumption of final status talks. Main points are further Israeli withdrawal, changes in the PLO Charter, opening the Gaza airport and the safe passage corridor, reducing the number of Palestinian police, and releasing Palestinian prisoners.

On 28 October, Arafat addresses the 53rd UNGA plenary under agenda item: General Debate, marking the first time in the history of the UN that an entity that is not a member state participated under that item. Palestine also co-sponsored 21 resolutions and one decision.

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**1998:** On 24 November, Palestinians inaugurate Gaza International Airport. On 10 December, the Palestinian Central Council meets in Gaza to vote on approving a letter from President Arafat to President Clinton, explaining the ramifications of 1996 PNC decision to amend the Palestinian National Charter. And on 14 December, hundreds of Palestinian officials - in the presence of President Clinton - revoke parts of the Palestinian Charter calling for the destruction of Israel.

Palestine applies to and is admitted into FIFA.

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**2000:** The PLO Central Council convenes in Gaza (February 2-3) to discuss, inter alia, the declaration of the Palestinian State and the peace process. Hamas, Islamic Jihad, PELP-GC and Sa'iqa boycott the meeting. The concluding statement announces that the independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds as its capital shall be declared this year, as it is a natural right of the Palestinians and the realization of the

1988 Declaration of Independence. The Council meets again on 9-10 September and votes to postpone plans to declare statehood unilaterally until 15 November to give “peace another chance”, but reiterates the Palestinian right to full sovereignty over East Jerusalem and the right of return.

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**2003:** On 8 March, the PLO Central Council ends two days of deliberation in Ramallah during which it accepted the nomination of Mahmoud Abbas as the first PA Prime Minister. The closing statement stresses the Palestinian wish for a peaceful settlement of the conflict with Israel based on full Israeli withdrawal from all the OPT, and for an independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital. The Council also discusses a proposed constitution for the future Palestinian State and national unity talks.

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**2004:** On 10 January, the PLO Executive Committee reiterates the Palestinian right to declare an independent state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Arab parts of Jerusalem, in the absence of a peace deal with Israel and in response to Israel’s threats of unilateral action. Two weeks later, on 23 January, President Arafat expresses in an interview with the Guardian, his fear that “time is running out for a two state solution” due to Israel’s construction of the separation barrier and its settlement policy.

On 11 November, the death of Yasser Arafat is announced. Mahmoud Abbas becomes head of the PLO and pledges on 25 December to preserve Arafat’s legacy and to fulfill the Palestinian dream of statehood on the bases of UN Resolutions 242 and 194.

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**2006:** In the second PLC elections on 26 January, Hamas wins a surprise majority, a sign of growing discontent with the Fateh-dominated PA. After the Hamas-led PA Cabinet is sworn in in March, the US and EU formally cut off all direct aid to the government.

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**2008:** Costa Rica decides to open official ties with a “state of Palestine” through a document signed on 5 February by its ambassador to the UN and the Palestinian UN mission chief Riad Mansour.

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**2009:** Venezuela officially recognizes the State of Palestine and establishes diplomatic relations with the Palestinian Authority on 27 April.

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**2009:** On 25 May, President Abbas rules out restarting peace talks until Israel commits itself to the creation of a Palestinian State and halting the expansion of settlements. On the same day, French President Sarkozy says that establishing a Palestinian state is a “legitimate right” and “no one would think seriously about peace in the Middle East without giving the Palestinians a state that has been persevering for years.”

On 28 August, Prime Minister Fayyad unveils a different plan for statehood: to create a de facto state in two years by means of economic and security reforms, without waiting for the outcome of peace talks. Among the plan’s priorities are reducing economic dependence on Israel and foreign aid and trimming

the size of the government, as well as increasing the use of technology and implementing a performance-based system in the public sector.

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**2010:** In early 2010, the French and Spanish Foreign Ministers Bernard Kouchner and Miguel Moratinos promote an initiative, bolstering the Fayyad plan for institution-building and reforms in preparation for a state, by which the European Union would recognize a Palestinian state in 18 months, even before negotiations for a permanent settlement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority are concluded.

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**2010:** On 23 July, the US upgrades the PA diplomatic status to that of a General Delegation. The Palestinian Representative Office in Washington DC will fly the PLO flag and diplomats will enjoy diplomatic immunity.

On 27 July, France upgrades the General Delegation of Palestine in Paris to the Palestinian Mission to France, to be headed by an Ambassador-Head of Mission.

On 10 September, Spain upgrades the diplomatic status of the PA and Fateh representatives in Madrid to an official Delegation, and on 14 October, Portugal upgrades Palestine's diplomatic representation from the status of office to Mission.

In November, PLO negotiations chief Erekat says Palestinians might turn to the UN for recognition of a Palestinian State along the 1967 borders if the US does not pressure Israel on settlements.

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**2010:** On 3 December, Brazil recognizes the State of Palestine in the 1967 borders, referring to the "legitimate aspiration of the Palestinian people for a secure, united, democratic and economically viable state coexisting peacefully with Israel." Argentina follows suit on 5 December, Bolivia on 19 December, and Ecuador on 24 December.

Norway upgrades Palestinian representation in the country from "General Delegation" to "Diplomatic Mission" on 16 December, with the Foreign Ministry spokesman stating, "In the last three years, since the donor conference in Paris in 2007, the Palestinian Authority has come a long way in laying the foundation for the establishment of a Palestinian state."

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**2011:** On 1 January, Suriname recognizes the State of Palestine in the 1967 borders with Chile following suit on 7 January, acknowledging Palestine "as a free, independent and sovereign state" without specifying borders, and Guyana on 14 January. They are followed by Peru on 24th and Paraguay on 29th January.

On 3 January, President Abbas visits Brazil to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony of the first Palestinian Embassy in the Americas.

On 18 January, Russia reaffirms its commitment to an independent Palestinian state. On 25 January, Ireland upgrades the Palestinian Representation to a full Diplomatic Mission to be headed by a

Palestinian Ambassador, and on 30 January, Cyprus recognizes Palestine as an independent state on the lands that Israel has occupied in 1967.

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**2011:** On 7 March, the UK announces that it is to upgrade the status of the Palestinian Representative Office in London to a full Diplomatic Mission On 9 March, Denmark upgrades the status of the Palestinian General Delegation to that of a Mission. On 15 March, Uruguay recognizes the State of Palestine without specifying borders.

On 12 April, a new UN report”, entitled “Palestinian State-building: A Decisive Period,” highlights the PA’s progress in institution-building, while stressing the need for Israel to roll back “measures of occupation” and for an urgent resumption of negotiations.

On 6 June, the Kingdom of Lesotho recognizes the Palestinian state within 1967 borders.

On 27 June, the Palestinian leadership officially decides to approach the UN in September to become a full member and attain statehood recognition.

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**2011:** On 14 July, Arab League Secretary General Nabil Al-Arabi announces that the Arab Peace Initiative Committee “has decided to submit a call to the member states of the United Nations to recognize a Palestinian state.” The committee will “move to present a request for full membership of a Palestinian state in the General Assembly and the Security Council.”

On 18 July, Syria “recognizes a Palestinian state within the June 4, 1967 borders and East Jerusalem as its capital, and on the basis of the preservation of Palestinian legitimate rights.” The same day, President Abbas announces he is ready to circumvent US opposition by taking the proposal to the UN General Assembly, saying, “Our goal is to go to the Security Council. If we fail we will go to the General Assembly,” which could back an upgrade from observer status to that of a non-member state.

On 23 July, Abbas convenes a conference of all Palestinian ambassadors in Istanbul to discuss the PA’s diplomatic moves. Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan reiterates his support for the bid and states, “Israel must also accept that East Jerusalem is capital of the Palestinian state, as Israel can’t deny the deprived Palestinian people the right to establish their own state.”

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**2011:** On 27 July, President Abbas announces that the PLO will approach the UN Security Council in September to seek full membership and recognition of Palestine on 1967 borders, saying “[A]fter the failure of the Quartet to lay out foundations for the negotiations, which are a halt to settlement building and using the 1967 borders as a basis for the Palestinian state, it is now too late for negotiations ... there is no time – we are going to the UN.”

On 26 August, El Salvador and Honduras recognize the Palestinian State within the 1967 borders.

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Water Israeli Position:

- Acceptance of the principle of international water law stipulating that both Israel and Palestine are entitled to an equitable and reasonable allocation of shared freshwater resources.
  - Compensation by Israel for the past and ongoing illegal use of Palestinian water resources.
-