



# AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail [australia@un.int](mailto:australia@un.int)

150 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York NY 10017-5612 Ph 212 - 351 6600 Fax 212 - 351 6610 [www.australia-unsc.gov.au](http://www.australia-unsc.gov.au)

## UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16 October 2018

### Palestinian chairing of the G77 in 2019

#### Explanation of Vote by HE Ambassador Gillian Bird Australian Permanent Representative to the United Nations

*(Check against delivery)*

Australia's decision to vote 'no' on this resolution reflects our longstanding position that Palestinian attempts to seek recognition as a state in international fora are deeply unhelpful to efforts towards a two-state solution.

Unilateral recognition of Palestinian statehood will not resolve outstanding issues or create the conditions for enduring stability. This will only be realised from a directly negotiated agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

Australia remains firmly committed to a two-state solution that allows Israel and a future Palestinian state to exist side-by-side, in peace and security, within internationally recognised borders.

We urge all parties to take the courageous decisions needed to return to and progress negotiations.

It is critical that no party seeks to exploit the outcome of today's vote in ways that could further undermine prospects for a just and lasting settlement.

ENDS.