

Confidential

Coordination on Potential Palestinian Observer State Status Initiative in the United Nations General Assembly

The United States and its Quartet partners continue to work toward a two-state solution that would result in a secure, democratic Jewish State of Israel and a Palestinian State as a homeland for the Palestinian people. We remain focused on returning the parties to direct negotiations, and quiet contacts toward that end are proceeding.

At the same time, we continue to urge both parties to avoid provocative one-sided actions that could undermine trust or otherwise distract from the pursuit of peace. This includes efforts by the Palestinians to potentially press for a resolution in the UN General Assembly to give "Palestine" non-member observer state status. Such a resolution would have significant negative consequences, for the peace process itself, for the UN system, as well as for our ability to maintain our significant financial support for the Palestinian Authority. A General Assembly resolution on Palestinian statehood could also open the door to Palestinian participation as a state in other international fora, including at the International Criminal Court as well as a host of UN Specialized Agencies. Statehood for the Palestinians can only be achieved via direct negotiations with the Israelis.

We believe your government understands what is at stake here, and - like us - wants to avoid a collision at the coming UNGA session. We hope you are willing to support our efforts, including in your conversations with other governments and with the Palestinians directly, that such a vote on status in the UN General Assembly would be extremely counterproductive.

We would appreciate knowing where your government stands on this issue. We would also be interested in knowing whether you have been approached on this matter by Palestinian representatives.