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## ANIC Welcomes Australia's Vote in Favour of a UN General Assembly Resolution Declaring

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) welcomes Australia's vote in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution declaring that “**the State of Palestine** is qualified for full membership in the United Nations” under its charter rules.

The resolution received overwhelming support from the international community, with **143** countries in favour, **9** opposing, and **25** abstentions. The outcome demonstrates a strong global consensus in support of **Palestinian self-determination**.

The vote comes a few days before the **76th anniversary** of the **Nakbah (The Catastrophe)** on 15 May, which involved the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians and the obliteration of Palestinian communities to establish the State of Israel in 1948. Over **750,000** Palestinians were forcibly expelled or fled their homeland. Sadly, this oppression and attempt to annihilate Palestinians from Palestine continues today.

The Palestinian people have lived under apartheid and occupation for the past 76 years. The international community has largely failed them, often displaying one-sided support for Israel with little to no regard for the lives, safety, and suffering of Palestinians.

ANIC calls on the international community and the Australian government to demand an immediate cessation of the Israeli offensive on Gaza and an end to the siege of Gaza.

ANIC acknowledges the decision of the Australian government and is pleased to note that it is a step in the right direction in ensuring that Australia is on the right side of history as the devastating atrocities continue to be committed against Palestinians by Israel and its military forces. ANIC also urges the Australian government to **recognise the State of Palestine** immediately.