

16 April 2024

Report of the Committee on the Admission of New Members concerning the application of the State of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations

1. At the 9597th meeting, on 8 April 2024, the Security Council had before it the letter dated 2 April 2024 from the Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2024/286) requesting that renewed consideration be given to the application of the State of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, contained in document (S/2011/592) dated 23 September 2011. In accordance with rule 59 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the President of the Council (Malta) referred to the Committee on the Admission of New Members the request for renewed consideration to the application of the Observer State of Palestine during the month of April 2024, for examination and report.
2. At its 112th and 113th meetings, held on 8 and 11 April 2024, respectively, the Committee reconsidered the application of the State of Palestine, and whether Palestine met the specific criteria for admission to membership in the United Nations contained in Article 4 of the Charter; was a state, was a peace-loving State, and was willing and able to carry out the obligations contained in the Charter.
3. Reference was made to the deliberations of the Committee on the Admission of New Members on the same application in 2011 and the Committee report, contained in document (S/2011/705). Several members expressed the view that the admission of the State of Palestine to membership in the United Nations was a political matter rather than a technical or legal requirement. Other delegations stated that the deliberations in the Committee and the process should not be rushed.
4. In the course of the meetings of the Committee on the Admission of New Members, differing views were expressed.
5. The view was expressed that the applicant fulfils all the criteria set out in the Charter also referring to the Advisory Opinion of 1948 of the International Court of Justice, on the Conditions of Admission of a State to Membership in the United Nations. It was also stated that the admission would be an important step towards a two-state solution and allowing Palestine to be on sovereign equality basis with Israel. Reference was made to support expressed by the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Non-Allied Movement in their letter of 2 April 2024 (S/2024/283) also citing the recognition of 140 States of Palestine as an independent sovereign state. A view was also expressed that all criteria aspects were thoroughly discussed and reflected in the 2011 report (S/2011/705).