India Backs Palestinian Natural Resources Draft: 151-7-11 in UN Second Committee

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15 November 2026: India voted in favour of a draft UN General Assembly resolution affirming the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people over their natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The UNGA Second Committee approved the draft (A/C.2/81/L.39) on 11 November 2026 with 151 votes in favour, 7 against and 11 abstentions; adoption by the plenary is still pending. Uruguay was among the notable countries in favour.

The vote: key facts

Numbers: 151 in favour, 7 against, 11 abstentions - an overwhelming majority in the Second Committee; adoption by the plenary is still pending.

What the resolution says: It reaffirms the Palestinian people's permanent sovereignty over natural resources - land, water and energy - in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

India's position: India has consistently supported Palestinian self-determination at the UN while maintaining strategic ties with Israel - a balanced, two-state-solution-based approach.

Background for the exam

UNGA resolutions are recommendatory, not legally binding - unlike UN Security Council resolutions under Chapter VII.

Permanent sovereignty over natural resources is a long-standing UNGA theme (Resolution 1803 of 1962), linked to the right of peoples to self-determination.

India-Palestine: India was the first non-Arab country to recognise the PLO (1974) and recognised the State of Palestine in 1988.

Quiz: Test your knowledge

Q1: The UNGA Second Committee approved the Palestinian natural resources draft with what margin?

(a) 120-10-20(b) 151-7-11(c) 140-9-15(d) 160-5-10

Answer and explanation: (b) 151 votes in favour, 7 against, 11 abstentions.

Q2: UN General Assembly resolutions are:

(a) Legally binding on all members(b) Binding only on West Asian states(c) Recommendatory in nature(d) Binding if passed by two-thirds majority

Answer and explanation: (c) UNGA resolutions are recommendatory; only Security Council decisions under Chapter VII are binding.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

In short: India voted for a draft UNGA resolution affirming Palestinian permanent sovereignty over natural resources; the Second Committee cleared it 151-7-11, with plenary adoption still pending.

Question: How did India vote on the Palestinian natural resources resolution?

In favour. The Second Committee approved the draft with 151 votes in favour, 7 against and 11 abstentions; plenary adoption is pending.

Question: Are UNGA resolutions legally binding?

No, they are recommendatory; they carry political and moral weight but only UN Security Council decisions under Chapter VII are binding.

Question: When did India recognise the State of Palestine?

In 1988; India had recognised the PLO in 1974, the first non-Arab country to do so.

Sources:

https://www.ptinews.com/detail/international/India-supports-UNGA-resolution-on-permanent-sovereignty-of-Palestinian-people/4258367