

**Najib Welcomes Landmark UN Decision On Palestine
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has welcomed the landmark decision by the United Nations (UN) to recognise Palestine as a non-member observer state.

He said that the move provided Palestinians with the opportunity to join international treaties and agencies.

"This landmark decision should not detract from the ultimate goal of ensuring that the Palestinian people have a land of their own.

"Malaysia calls on all parties to redouble their efforts towards a two-state solution, so that there is a durable and just peace in the region," he said in a statement Friday.

The UN General Assembly on Thursday voted overwhelmingly to recognise Palestine as a state, which has been a long-sought victory for the Palestinians.

The resolution upgrading the Palestinians' status to a non-member observer state at the UN was approved by a vote of 138 to nine, with 41 abstentions, in the 193-member world body.

Najib expressed hope that all members of the UN would respect the vote.

Malaysia has long been a staunch supporter of the Palestinian cause, and had voiced concern over the recent deadly Israeli military attacks on Gaza to President Barack Obama of the United States, a close ally of Israel.

Opening the annual Umno general Assembly 2012 Thursday, Najib indicated Malaysia's intention to open the first foreign embassy in a future independent Palestine.

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