

Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Cyprus, 4th of February 2014

Mr. President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Cyprus to the second cycle of the UPR and thanks it for the presentation of Cyprus' national report.

We commend the efforts made by the Government to implement recommendations that emanated from the first UPR cycle.

Since the first UPR review, a number of initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Labour to reduce the wage gap between men and women. We welcome these efforts and recommend that Cyprus continue on this path, including by combating the root causes of the gender pay gap.

We also commend steps that have been taken to prevent and combat human trafficking, including through the training of public officers within the framework of the revised National Action Plan Against Trafficking of Human Beings, and recommend that Cyprus continue implementing such training programmes. We also recommend that Cyprus step up efforts aimed at providing adequate assistance and protection to all victims of human trafficking, and commend the steps that it has already taken in this regard despite the severe economic difficulties engendered by the financial crisis.

Thank you Mr. President.