

Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of New Zealand, 27th of January 2014

Mr. President,

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

The State of Palestine welcomes the steps that the New Zealand Government has taken towards implementing the recommendations from the first UPR cycle and its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights in the country.

We particularly welcome efforts that the Government has made to promote equality and non-discrimination, including through the significant strides it has made to advance the rights of indigenous peoples, and recommend that it continue on this constructive path.

We also commend steps that have been taken to improve the well-being of children, including New Zealand's ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, as well as the launching of the White Paper for Vulnerable Children and the Children's Action Plan. We recommend that New Zealand continue addressing the problem of child abuse inter alia through nationwide strategies aimed at improving the protection of children against abuse and neglect.

Thank you Mr. President.