

Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Ethiopia, 6th of May 2014

Mr. President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of Ethiopia to the second cycle of the UPR and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

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

Since the first review, Ethiopia has taken a number of steps to promote women's economic empowerment, including the adoption of the Women Focus Growth and Transformation Strategy. We welcome such efforts and recommend that Ethiopia expand its policies aimed at creating income-generating opportunities for women, and improve working conditions of women in the private and informal sectors.

We also commend efforts that Ethiopia has taken to improve healthcare in the country; however, concerns still remain about significant rural and urban disparities in healthcare provision, as well as a high maternal mortality rate. In this regard, we recommend that Ethiopia step up efforts to improve health services and reduce the maternal mortality rate, including through the allocation of increased resources for healthcare provision in rural areas.

We wish Ethiopia a successful review.

Thank you Mr. President.