

**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Iran,
31th of October 2014**

Thank you Madam Vice-President.

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

We commend efforts made by the Government to implement recommendations that emanated from the first UPR cycle including in terms of poverty reduction and efforts in the health care sector despite the challenges posed by the economic sanctions imposed on the country.

Since the first UPR review, Iran undertook a number of measures to combat poverty. Despite this, the unemployment rate remains high, particularly among women and youth, and in this regard we recommend that Iran step up its employment simulation measures and enhance access of the poor to basic services including sanitation, health and education.

We welcome efforts by Iran to expand health services in rural areas. However, we remain concerned that a significant portion of the population is not covered by health insurance schemes, and recommend that the Government enhance efforts to ensure universal access to health insurance, including access to maternal and child health care.

We wish Iran every success in its review.

I thank you.