

**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Belgium, 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2016**

Mr. President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of Belgium and thanks it for the presentation of Belgium's national report.

We commend the progress made by Belgium since the first UPR cycle to further promote and protect the human rights of its people.

Since the first UPR, a number of important measures have been taken by Belgium inter alia in view of the effective realisation of the rights of persons with disabilities. We recommend that Belgium continue on this path and take further steps to promote the recruitment and employment of persons with disabilities.

We also welcome steps taken by Belgium with regard to business and human rights including the drafting of a National Action Plan to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

We recommend that Belgium ensure that its policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures effectively serve to prevent and address the heightened risk of business involvement in abuses in conflict situations, which includes situations of foreign occupation.

We wish Belgium a successful review.

Thank you Mr. President.