

Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Namibia, 18th of January 2016

Mr. President,

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

We welcome the steps taken by the Namibian Government towards implementing the recommendations from the first UPR cycle and its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights.

We particularly welcome the progress made in addressing poverty and under development in the country, especially given the difficulties posed by existing challenges including severe droughts, access issues due to a large land surface combined with low population density, a lack of available resources and insufficient assistance from the international community in this regard. We recommend that Namibia take steps to further enhance access to education and health services in rural areas.

We commend the work that has been done by the Government with regard to Gender-Based Violence including through the adoption of the National Gender Policy. We recommend that Namibia intensify efforts aimed at accelerating the elimination of discrimination against women and promoting gender equality, including through the development of the proposed national database on GBV.

We wish Namibia a successful review.

Thank you Mr. President.