**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of South Africa, 10th of May 2017**

Thank you Mr. President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of South Africa and thanks it for the comprehensive presentation of its national report.

We welcome the progress made by South Africa since its last UPR to further promote and protect human rights in the country.

Since it last review a number of important steps have been taken by South Africa to combat discrimination including through developing a National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. In this regard, **we recommend South Africa to continue its efforts to prevent and eradicate all manifestations of racism and xenophobia and to improve policing responses to violence against non-nationals.**

We also welcome the steps taken by the Government with regard to education and **we recommend South Africa to continue its efforts to improve the quality of education, including the quality and availability of school facilities, educational materials, teaching staff and curricula, prioritizing the most disadvantaged schools.**

We wish South Africa a successful review.

I thank you