**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Gabon, 7th November 2017**

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of Gabon and thanks them for their presentation of their national report.

At the outset, the State of Palestine would like to commend Gabon for its efforts to implement the recommendations set forth in the last UPR.

Further, Gabon’s work to intensify its fight against poverty, through its National Social Assistance Fund, which has since 2012, aided over 6000 persons in income-generating schemes, is noteworthy and commendable. We recommend Gabon continues to enhance its social protection schemes, which provide assistance to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged Gabonese and we recommend that it further widens its scope of assistance to women, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, in this regard.

In closing, the State of Palestine welcomes Gabon’s plans to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which we view as a positive step forward.

We wish Gabon a successful review.

Thank you