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

The State of Palestine takes this opportunity to welcome the distinguished delegation of Ghana and thank them for their comprehensive presentation of their national report.

At the outset, the State of Palestine would like to commend Ghana for its successful launch of its Free Senior High School Education, social protection programme, which is expected to greatly improve access to secondary education for all.

Furthermore, Ghana’s ‘One Hot Meal a Day’ programme, which over 1.6 million pupils benefit from, is inspiring. This program has not only witnessed an increase in school enrollments amongst Ghana’s rural communities, but has also seen significant retention of beneficiary children in schools - which is truly commendable. Creating an all-inclusive right to education environment should be at the forefront of a country’s national goals. We recommend Ghana continues its efforts to deliver free education to all, and that girls, women, the disabled and other vulnerable groups, are at the forefront of its efforts.

Finally, discrimination of people with disabilities should not go unmentioned. We welcome Ghana’s arrangements to amend the Persons with Disability Act, 2006 in order to ensure that it is in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We wish Ghana a successful review.

Thank you.