**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Sri Lanka, 15th of November 2017**

Thank you Mr. President,

We thank the delegation of Sri Lanka for their comprehensive presentation of their national report. The State of Palestine welcomes the steps taken by the government of Sri Lanka to promote fundamental freedoms and protect human rights.

We commend the commitment of the government of Sri Lanka to attain a peaceful solution and achieve reconciliation after the violent conflict in the country. We recommend Sri Lanka continues to investigate, in an independent and impartial manner, all human rights violations committed during the conflict and its aftermath,and to prosecute perpetrators and ensure proper redress to the victims affected, in this regard.

We acknowledge the efforts made by the government to improve the human rights situation in the country, since January 2015; particularly its efforts to prevent acts of violence and intimidation against human rights defenders and journalists. We recommend the government takes all necessary measures to ensure the protection of civil society actors and journalists and to investigate cases of threats and attacks against them.

We wish Sri Lanka a successful review.

Thank you.