**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Switzerland, 9th of November 2017.**

Thank you Mr. President,

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

We welcome the positive steps taken by Switzerland to ensure the implementation of the recommendations since the second cycle of the UPR, to further promote and protect human rights in the county.

We acknowledge the positive measures and initiatives taken by Switzerland to combat racial discrimination, including through its various programmes that include anti-discrimination measures, that benefit all groups of minorities that experience discrimination or that are potential victims of racial discrimination. However, we remain concerned that prevailing stereotypes continue to impede efforts to combat racial discrimination. In this regard, **we recommend that the Swiss Government takes additional measures to combat stigmatization and stereotyping, including, through awareness raising campaigns and initiatives and to respond to instances of racist remarks or acts by high level public officials.**

We commend Switzerland’s efforts in the field of business and human rights and welcome the positive steps taken to ensure that human rights in the context of economic activity, are respected, including by adopting a national action plan for the implementation of the Guiding Principles in 2016. **We recommend that Switzerland intensifies** **its oversight efforts of Swiss companies, whether operating abroad or domestically, to ensure that the impact of their activities does not hinder the enjoyment of human rights of any persons, particularly in conflict areas. This includes, situations of foreign occupation, where the risk of human rights abuses is heightened.**

Thank you Mr. President.