**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Austria, 22nd January 2021:**

Thank you, Madame President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of Austria and commends the steps taken by the Government since the second cycle of the UPR to promote and protect human rights including the efforts made in combating hate speech, hate crimes and racial and xenophobic acts, and we recommend that Austria continue its efforts in improving its legal and institutional frameworks for protection against discrimination, and to establish a systematic data collection mechanism to record incidents of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to ensure that all incidents are investigated, prosecuted and that the perpetrators were punished.

With regards to business and human rights, we recommend that Austria enact legislations specific to conflict-affected areas and to provide conflict-specific guidance and advice for business enterprises on ensuring respect for human rights to prevent and address the heightened risk of corporate involvement in gross human right violations in conflict affected areas including situations of foreign occupation.

We wish Austria a successful review.

I thank you.