**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Ireland, 10th of November 2021:**

Thank you, Madam President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the Delegation of Ireland and thanks them for their presentation and we commend the government’s commitment to promote and protect human rights.

We welcome the efforts made by the Government of Ireland in ensuring a society free of racism and their work in combating all forms of discrimination, including the creation of the National Anti-Racism Committee in 2020. **We recommend that Ireland continue its efforts in this regard, focusing on ensuring a zero-tolerance strategy against incidents of racism and racial discrimination.**

We also welcome the steps taken by Ireland in the view of business and human rights by launching both the National Plan on Business and Human Rights and the new guidance, especially those that encourage companies not to be involved in practices that impact Human Rights Defenders. **We recommend that Ireland continue its efforts in ensuring that Irish companies abroad are not impacting the enjoyment of human rights, especially in conflict areas, which includes situations of foreign occupation.**

We wish Ireland a successful review.

I thank you.