*Please check against delivery*

**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Iceland, 25th of January 2022:**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of Iceland and we thank them for the presentation. And we commend the government’s commitment to promote and protect human rights.

We welcome the efforts made by the government of Iceland in reducing the higher rates of unemployment among persons belonging to ethnic minorities, including through implementing the Act on Equal Treatment on the Labour Market in 2018. In this regard, we recommend that the government of Iceland ensure a consistent effective enforcement of the Act; and to conduct awareness-raising campaigns among employers to prevent racial discrimination in the labour market.

We also commend the steps taken by Iceland in the scoop of business and human rights by starting the process of creating a National Action Plan for the implementation of the UNGPs on Business and Human Rights. In this regard, we recommend that Iceland strengthen oversight over its companies operating abroad with regard to any negative impact of their activities on the enjoyment of human rights, particularly in conflict areas, which includes situations of foreign occupation, where there are heightened risks of human rights abuses.

We wish Iceland a successful review.

I thank you.